

COSMO-Sky Med: ASI and Alenia Spazio (100%-owned by Finmeccanica) sign definitive contract

A next generation constellation of dual-use Earth observation satellite system

Finmeccanica announces that a contract worth EUR 775 million was signed yesterday (21 December) between the Italian Space Agency and Alenia Spazio for the construction of the COSMO-SkyMed satellite system.

The system consists of a constellation of four Earth observation satellites that can be used for civil or defence purposes.

Alenia Spazio (100%-owned by Finmeccanica) acts as prime contractor for the industrial team appointed to develop the system, whose main suppliers include another Finmeccanica company, Telespazio, as well as several Italian SMEs.

The contract relates to the first three satellites in the constellation; the contract for the fourth satellite is expected to be worth EUR 116 million.

The COSMO-SkyMed system is financed by the Ministry of Education, Universities and Research, or MIUR, (EUR 620 million) and the Ministry of Defence (EUR 155 million).

The first COSMO-SkyMed satellite is to be launched during the last three months of 2006, and the system as a whole should be fully operational at the end of 2008.

