

Galileo: Constellation Mission Control Station and Performance Assessment Centre to be built in Italy

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Telespazio (Finmeccanica/Alcatel) to head up the new European Satellite System

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The Constellation Mission Control Station and the Performance Assessment Centre of the new Galileo European satellite navigation system are both to be built in Italy, in Fucino and near Rome respectively.

This significant success follows the agreement signed today in Brussels between the members of the consortium responsible for managing the Galileo system: Finmeccanica, Alcatel, Thales, EADS, AENA, Hispasat, Inmarsat and German group Telcop.

According to the terms of the agreement, the two Constellation Mission Control Stations, which represent the real heart of the system, as well as the two Performance Assessment Centres, will be located in Italy and Germany, while the consortium's headquarters will be in Toulouse, France.

Specifically, the Constellation Mission Control Station will be built and run by Telespazio (a Finmeccanica/Alcatel company) in Fucino. The Performance Assessment Centre (for the system and signals) will be situated in Rome, and will benefit from the expertise provided by Telespazio and Galileo Industries Italia, and the Galileo Test Range, which is being built near Rome in partnership with the Region of Lazio and the Italian Space Agency.

Galileo is the European satellite navigation system developed jointly by the European Union and the European Space Agency. Galileo will lead to the development of a range of applications and services in the sectors of road, air, rail and maritime transport, telecommunications, civil protection and government services.

Finmeccanica's Chief Operating Officer Giorgio Zappa commented: "As well as rewarding the expertise of Italian industry, which is now faced with new and more exacting challenges, this agreement confirms that the Prime Minister and Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport are fully committed to supporting Italy's leading role in the sector of space and related services. We hope that on the back of this success, Italy will be chosen as the base for the Galileo Supervisory Authority".