

Agreement Reached for Galileo Programme Facilities – A Major Step Forward for Europe

Brussels, 6 December 2005 – The future Galileo Concessionaire has agreed the locations of the various facilities under its responsibility that are required for the successful deployment of the Galileo Programme.

According to this Agreement the Headquarters of the Galileo Concessionaire will be located in Toulouse, France. The Operations Company will be located in London, United Kingdom. The two Control Centres (Constellation and Mission) will be located in Germany and Italy as well as the two Performance Evaluation Centres supporting the concessionaire headquarters. Spain will host facilities that include redundancy for the Control Centres, and are related to Galileo safety critical applications.

Furthermore, a new consortium of German companies will join the team, adding core competencies to the Concessionaire.

Following the budgetary consensus reached last month, this land mark agreement, achieved with the assistance of Mr. Van Miert, the EC appointed mediator, clears the way for the efficient implementation of the Galileo Programme supporting a commercial and best value for money approach to the Galileo Public Private Partnership.

The agreement truly reflects the European dimension of the Galileo program and signifies a major step forward. It paves the way for the creation of all the benefits expected from this truly European initiative: the generation of employment opportunities and innovation in the high technology industry segments across Europe.

The concession partners will now pursue the necessary steps to finalise concession contract with the GJU.

About AENA

Aena is a Public Business Entity entrusted with the planning, development, building, installation, operation and managing of the 44(+3) Spanish civil airports and the air navigation system for all airspace under Spanish responsibility, with 5 Area Control Centres covering 4 Flight Information Regions (FIR/UIR). Aena also manages 15 airports in Central and South America. Aena integrates all Spanish civil aeronautical infrastructure activities in one single organisation staffed by qualified professionals, with a business philosophy whilst keeping the best of public service spirit, technological innovation and safety management. Aena's strategy is to operate as a service company offering its customers (airline companies and air transport users in general) a safe, efficient and high quality of service, fostering economic progress.

About ALCATEL

Alcatel provides communications solutions to telecommunication carriers, Internet service providers and enterprises for delivery of voice, data and video applications to their customers or employees. Alcatel brings its leading position in fixed and mobile broadband networks; applications and services, to help its partners and customers build a user-centric broadband world. With sales of EURO 12.3 billion and 56,000 employees in 2004, Alcatel operates in more than 130 countries. <http://www.alcatel.com>

Finmeccanica is Italy's leading high-tech company, operating in the design and manufacture of helicopters, aerostructures, satellites, space infrastructure, missiles and defence electronics. It plays a leading role in the European aerospace and defence industry, and participates in some of the biggest international programmes in the sector through well-established alliances with European and American partners. Finmeccanica also boasts significant manufacturing assets and skills in the transport and energy. The group is listed on the Milan stock exchange, and operates in Italy and abroad through 18 companies and 4 joint ventures. It employs around 56,000 staff in total. As part of its drive to maintain and build on its technological expertise, Finmeccanica spends over 16% of its revenues on research and development.

About EADS SPACE:

EADS SPACE, a wholly owned subsidiary of EADS, is dedicated to providing civil and defence space systems. In 2004, EADS SPACE had a turnover of €2.6 billion and 11,000 employees in France, Germany, the United Kingdom and Spain. It has three main subsidiaries: EADS SPACE Transportation, for launchers and orbital infrastructure, EADS Astrium for satellites and ground segment and EADS SPACE Services to develop and deliver satellite services. EADS is a global leader in aerospace, defence and related services.

In 2004, EADS generated revenues of €31.8 billion and employed a workforce of more than 110,000.

<http://www.space.eads.net>

About Finmeccanica

Finmeccanica is Italy's leading high-tech company, operating in the design and manufacture of helicopters, civil and military aircraft, aerostructures, space satellites and infrastructure, satellite services, command and control systems, defence electronics and systems, communications, security and IT. Finmeccanica participates in some of the largest international programmes in the sector through well-established alliances with European and American partners. Finmeccanica also boasts significant manufacturing assets and skills in the transport and energy sectors. With operations in Italy and abroad, it employs around 51,000 staff in total. Finmeccanica spends 16 % of its revenues on research and development. For more information, please visit <http://www.finmeccanica.it>

About Hispasat

Hispasat is a Spanish group of companies that started in 1989 as satellite system operator for commercial and governmental/military communication services, provision of engineering solutions and new advanced projects. Its satellite fleet is located at 30 W and 61 W orbital positions to provide all types of communication services at both sides of the Atlantic. Hispasat has proven experience in satellite engineering, procurement, launch, testing and operations, with satellite ground control and monitoring premises in Spain, Brazil, Argentina and Mexico as well as appropriate knowledge in Security. HISPASAT has been cleared by the Spanish Ministry of Defence (SMOD) since 1990.

About Inmarsat Ventures Ltd

Inmarsat plc (LSE: ISAT) is the leading provider of global mobile satellite communications. Since 1979, Inmarsat has been providing reliable voice and high-speed data communications to governments, enterprises and other organisations, with a range of services that can be used on land, at sea or in the air. The company's services are delivered through a world-class network of leading telecoms groups. For the year ended 31 December 2004, group revenue was \$480.7 million, with operating profit of \$159.1 million. More information can be found at www.inmarsat.com.

About Thales

Thales is an international electronics and systems group, serving defence, aerospace, services and security markets. The group employs 60,000 people worldwide and generated revenues of 10.3 billion in 2004. Thales is a pioneer in satellite navigation technology and is the only European company with end-to-end satellite navigation capability, from signals to products, to systems and services delivery. www.thalesgroup.com

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