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PRESS RELEASE

**e-GEOS (Telespazio/ASI) signs an exclusive strategic alliance contract with 4C worth 180 million Euro to distribute COSMO-Sky-Med satellite data**

e-GEOS, a company set up by Telespazio (Finmeccanica/Thales) and the Italian Space Agency, has signed a contract worth 180 million Euro with Luxembourg based company 4C Satellite Images & Technologies SA (4C) for the exclusive transfer of the marketing rights of the Earth observation radar data from the Italian COSMO-SkyMed satellites in Nord Africa-Middle East and South East Asia.

Under the agreement, 4C will be the exclusive distributor of COSMO-SkyMed data in the MENA (Middle East and North Africa) markets for the next ten years. In addition, 4C will acquire a ground station from e-GEOS for the reception and processing of COSMO-SkyMed data, which will be built in the GCC (Gulf Cooperation Council) region. e-GEOS and 4C will also work together on training activities and the development of applications.

The agreement also provides 4C with the right to distribute Cosmo-SkyMed products in substantially all other African countries on a non-exclusive basis pursuant to an ancillary agreement which the parties have agreed to negotiate and sign prior to July 31, 2009.

The agreement marks a major development in the global Earth observation industry and is expected to open up a new era in the security and surveillance services, particularly in the field of near real-time monitoring. The COSMO-SkyMed satellites have comprehensive data acquisition capabilities and can acquire images during the day, at night and in all weather conditions, thanks to a very high frequency low Earth orbit revisit cycle (every three to six hours).

**e-GEOS**

The company, which is majority owned by Telespazio (Finmeccanica 67%, Thales 33%) with the remaining shares held by the Italian Space Agency, with sites in Rome and Matera, aims to become a global leader in the sector of geospatial information, with an integrated range of application solutions, content and services, based on Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) and Very High Resolution (VHR) optical data. e-GEOS will operate along the whole of the value chain in Earth observation, from data acquisition and processing to the provision of services and applications. Thanks to the system's unique and innovative characteristics, the data acquired from the radar satellites of the Italian COSMO-SkyMed constellation will enable the company to offer operational monitoring services that up to now were impossible.

**4C Satellite Images & Technologies SA.**

A company created under Luxembourg law, which is 100%-controlled by the 4C Controls Inc. The company markets Earth observation products and data based on high-resolution, optical and radar technology at international level.

**COSMO-SkyMed**

The COSMO-SkyMed satellite system, financed by the Italian Space Agency and the Ministry of Defence, comprises a constellation of four satellites (three of which are in orbit, with the launch of the fourth one scheduled for early 2010), and is equipped with radar sensors capable of operating day and night in all atmospheric conditions and with frequent revisit times.