



Turin, 15 May 2009

Finmeccanica presents the book “Lo Spazio tricolore. Storie di uomini che hanno visto le stelle”

Today, at the Turin International Book Fair, Finmeccanica presented “**Lo Spazio tricolore. Storie di uomini che hanno visto le stelle**” (Italy in Space. Stories of men who have seen the stars), written by Dario Laruffa and published by Utet Libreria.

This is the third volume in a collection that tells the extraordinary stories of people and companies that make up the history of Italian innovation: true pioneers of “Italian genius” in the sectors of advanced technology. The project was born out of an agreement between Finmeccanica and the De Agostini group, which gave its subsidiary Utet Libreria the job of producing the collection.

The presentation was attended by: Telespazio CEO Giuseppe Veredice; Extraordinary Commissioner of the Italian Space Agency (ASI) Enrico Saggese; Marcello Onofri of the Aerospace Research Centre at Rome’s La Sapienza University; Maurizio Cheli, Supervisor of Flying Alenia Aeronautica; Piergiorgio Paterlini, editor of the collection; and Dario Laruffa, Tg2’s special correspondent and author of the book.

The book covers the history of the conquest of space, touching on research into fuels for launchers, the first satellites, and the scientists and astronauts, highlighting in particular the contributions of Italian industry and technology and the efforts of Italian scientists to obtain funding and be part of the large international and European institutions. It outlines a kind of Italian romance for space, an adventure that has lasted for nearly a century and which relates to science as well as fantasy, and innovation as well as imagination.

“Italy’s success in the space arena”, commented Pier Francesco Guarguaglini, Chairman and CEO of Finmeccanica, “has always been based on the right mix of technological excellence and industrial initiative on the one hand, and sufficient public investment on the other. Italy has been able to give a very valuable contribution to the space sector, and I am convinced that it will continue to do so in the future”.

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