

Florence, May 15th 2008

**Selex Galileo for the monitoring of the planet warm-up
A €65 million contract within GMES programme**

Selex Galileo of Finmeccanica has signed a contract worth €65,49 million with Thales Alenia Space, to supply the Sea and Land Surface Temperature Radiometer (SLSTR), a crucial element of the Sentinel 3 payload. The Sentinel 3 is one of the "Sentinels" foreseen within the European program GMES (Global Monitoring for Environment and Security).

The contract will last 4 years, with more than 40 high qualified people involved at Selex Galileo, which will also manage an industrial team of twenty European companies for the development of the payload, due to be launched in 2012. A further contract for the second Sentinel 3 satellite and its payload is expected within the next year. With an average life of 7 to 10 years for each satellite, and an overall coverage of 20 years of the GMES programme, the launch of 3 to 5 satellites for each Sentinel type can be expected.

The infrared radiometer SLSTR (Sea and Land Surface Temperature Radiometer) of Selex Galileo derives from the ATSR (Along-Track Scanning Radiometer) family of sensors, on board ERS I, ERS II and ENVISAT. Its main task is the measurement of land and sea surface temperature. SLSTR covers nine bands between 0.555 and 12 micron wavelength. The channels in the Visible (VIS) will allow the vegetation mapping, while those in the Short Wavelength Infrared (SWIR) will provide data for the correction of atmospheric parameters (aerosol, clouds). Able to perform the measurement of the sea and land temperature with an accuracy of 0.2 Kelvin degrees and with an on ground spatial resolution of 1 Km, the SLSTR will offer a significant contribution to meteorology and climatology allowing the planet Earth temperature continuous monitoring in the forthcoming years

Note to editors:

Global Monitoring for Environment and Security (GMES) aims at delivering environment and security monitoring services and is being led by the European Commission. It is Europe's response to the ever-increasing demands of effective environmental policies and is at the same time the European contribution to the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS). The GMES programme is based on a series of five satellites, named Sentinels, each devoted to a specific Earth Observation application. The Sentinel 3 will be launched in 2012 and will remotely sense both oceans and vegetation providing the sea topography, the sea and land surface temperature and colour; the Sentinel 3 will provide a crucial contribution to the Earth's climate monitoring and to the forecasting of the sea condition, fundamental data also for secure maritime navigation. Sentinel 3 will be placed in a quasi-polar sun synchronous orbit and will weight about 1,200 kg.

ESA is responsible for the GMES Space Component (GSC), which foresees, between other activities, the development of the Sentinels. In February 2008 the European Commission have allocated a budget of €624 million as a contribution to the GSC; the GSC will benefit by an additional contribution of €700 million, already allocated by ESA's member States.

The development and production of the Sentinels has been contracted to main European industries: the French-Italian company Thales Alenia Space is responsible for Sentinel 1 and Sentinel 3 while the Astrium-GmbH has been entrusted for Sentinel 2.

The Sentinel's specialization is as follows: The Sentinel 1 satellites will provide radar data (SAR); the Sentinel 2 satellites will operate with optical payload providing multi-spectral observation; the Sentinel 3 will be devoted mainly to oceanography and global land application; Sentinel 4 will monitor the atmosphere from geostationary orbit (GEO) providing more detailed images than the present Meteosat; Sentinel 5 will monitor the atmospheric chemical composition from low orbit (LEO).

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