

# Bit Market Services

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Oggetto : Two new contracts totalling EUR 138 million signed as part of Finmeccanica space activities

*Testo del comunicato*

Vedi allegato.

## Two new contracts totalling €138 million signed as part of Finmeccanica space activities

- **Finmeccanica's role in the most ambitious Earth-observation programme to date is expanding**
- **Finmeccanica will provide radiometers for the programme's Sentinel-3C and 3D satellites to measure sea and land temperature, helping to control global warming**
- **Telespazio will be responsible for managing the ground segment operations of the whole Sentinel-3 mission**

**Rome, 16 February 2016** – Two new contracts totalling €138 million have been signed as part of Finmeccanica space activities relating to the Copernicus programme's Sentinel-3 mission, led by the European Commission in partnership with the European Space Agency (ESA) and with the contribution of the Italian Space Agency (ASI). Copernicus will monitor the environment, help mitigate the effects of climate change and provide data that can help improve the management of humanitarian emergencies, natural disasters and public security.

The first contract, worth €97 million and lasting six years, was signed by Finmeccanica's Airborne and Space Systems Division with Thales Alenia Space (67% owned by Thales, 33% by Finmeccanica); it provides for the supply of infrared radiometers for the Sentinel-3C and 3D satellites. Finmeccanica will lead an international consortium that will develop these SLSTRs (Sea and Land Surface Temperature Radiometers), which are able to measure the temperature of the Earth and its oceans at a range of 800km while precise to tenths of a degree. They will provide crucial information for climatology and meteorological applications and aid in the fight against global warming.

The second contract, worth €41 million, was signed by Telespazio (67% owned by Finmeccanica, 33% by Thales) with the European Space Agency (ESA). According to the agreement, Telespazio will lead a group of European companies in the management of operations for the ground segment of the Sentinel-3 mission, including maintenance and development activities, until 2021. Through these services, users - from land management organisations to civil protection agencies - will be able to access important environmental data as soon as three hours after it is acquired by the satellites.

**Note:**

Following the process of the reorganisation of the **Finmeccanica** Group's companies, it should be noted that from January 1st 2016: the "Helicopter Division" has absorbed the activities of AgustaWestland; the "Aircraft Division" has absorbed part of the activities of Alenia Aermacchi; the "Aero-structures Division" has absorbed part of the activities of Alenia Aermacchi; the "Airborne & Space Systems Division" has absorbed part of the activities of Selex ES; the "Land & Naval Defence Electronics Division" has absorbed part of the activities of Selex ES; the "Security & Information Systems Division" has absorbed part of the activities of Selex ES; the "Defence Svstems Division" has absorbed the activities of OTO Melara and WASS.

**Finmeccanica** is among the top ten global players in Aerospace, Defence and Security and Italy's main industrial company. As a single entity from January 2016, organised into business Divisions (Helicopters; Aircraft; Aero-structures; Airborne & Space Systems; Land & Naval Defence Electronics; Defence Systems; Security & Information Systems), Finmeccanica operates in the most competitive international markets by leveraging its areas of technology and product leadership. Listed on the Milan Stock Exchange (FNC IM; SIFI.MI), at 31 December 2014, Finmeccanica recorded restated consolidated revenues of 12.8 billion Euros and has a significant industrial presence in Italy, the UK and the U.S.

**Note for editors:**

The European Earth observation programme Copernicus is based on six series of satellites, named Sentinels, each devoted to a specific application.

Finmeccanica plays a major role in the development of satellites for Copernicus, including on-board systems and operations, as well as in the various satellite applications of the programme.

As prime contractor, Thales Alenia Space (67% owned by Thales, 33% by Finmeccanica) is responsible for the design, development, integration and testing of the Sentinel-1 and Sentinel-3 constellations.

The Sentinel-3 mission is largely tasked with oceanography and vegetation monitoring. It will be able to map the topography of oceans and deliver critical data on the temperature of the sea and land surfaces, providing a decisive contribution to maritime safety and climate monitoring. The other missions provide additional information on the state of the oceans, the polar ice caps, vegetation, air quality and pollution.

Finmeccanica has provided the attitude sensors and power units installed on the Sentinel-1 satellites, while Sentinel-3 - the first satellite of which will be launched today, on February 16 - will be equipped with Finmeccanica SLSTR radiometers and photovoltaic assemblies. These are also on board the Sentinel-5 precursor.

Telespazio (67% owned by Finmeccanica, 33% by Thales) is one of the major industrial partners in the Copernicus programme. In particular, it contributes to the development of the ground segment and operations, makes the COSMO-SkyMed data accessible to third parties and provides geospatial services and applications for land monitoring, emergency response and maritime safety through its subsidiary e-GEOS (80% owned by Telespazio, 20% by the ASI).

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