

COSMO-SkyMed



Telespazio

A Finmeccanica/Thales Company

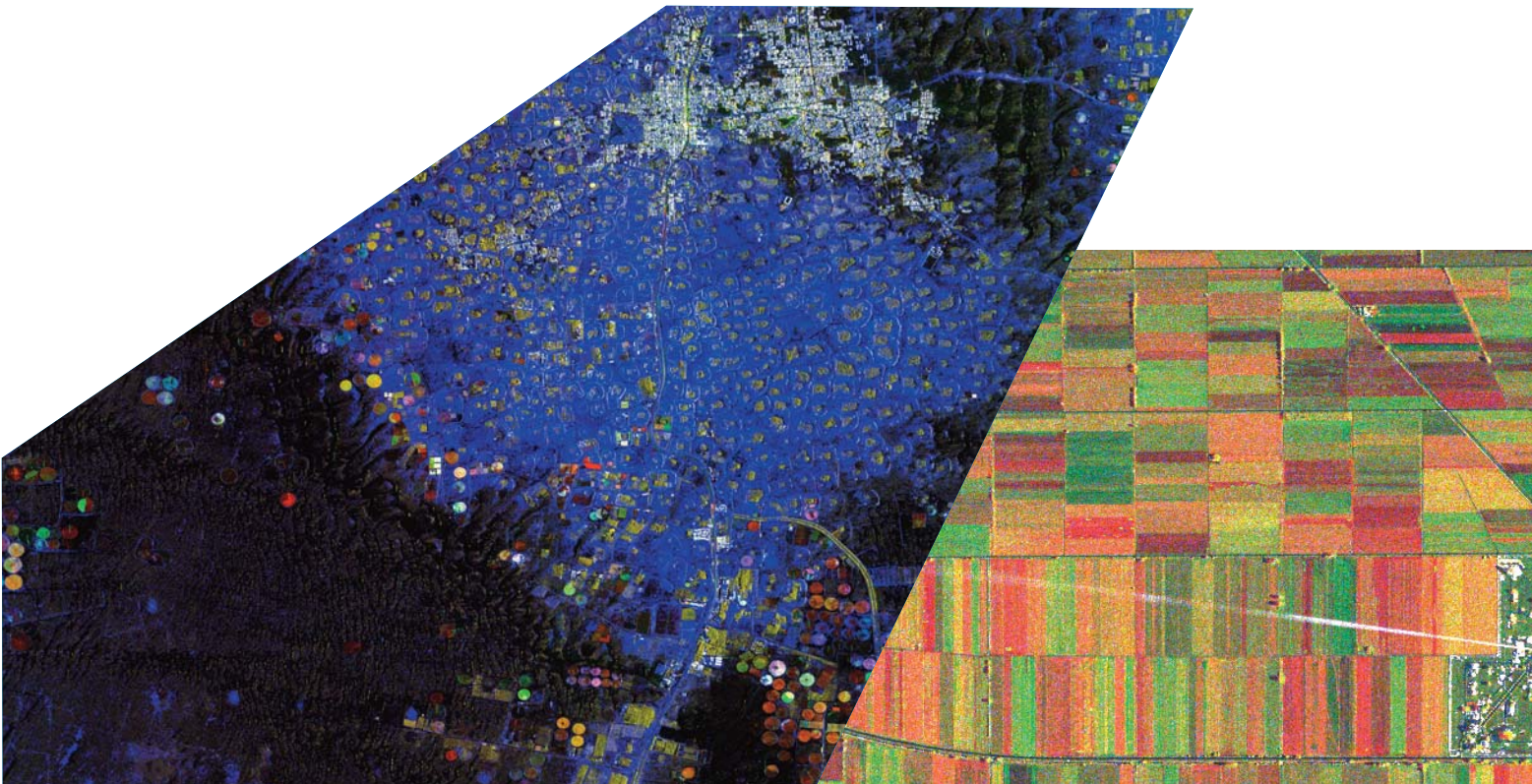


THE COSMO-SKYMED PROGRAMME

COSMO-SkyMed is one of the most innovative Earth observation programmes and is financed by the Italian Space Agency, the Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of Education, Universities and Scientific Research. The COSMO-SkyMed system involves a constellation of four satellites equipped with radar sensors that can operate under any weather or visibility conditions and with a very high revisit frequency.

COSMO-SkyMed was developed by **Thales Alenia Space** (a Thales/Finmeccanica company), the prime contractor and company with responsibility for the whole system including the space and ground segments.

Telespazio (a Finmeccanica/Thales company) built the system's entire ground segment, civil and military, and the integrated logistics/operations segment. The Matera Space Centre, managed by **e-GEOS** (Telespazio 80%/ASI 20%) is responsible for the acquisition, processing and distribution of the data gathered by the COSMO-SkyMed satellites for civil applications. COSMO-SkyMed was conceived as a programme to meet civil (environment, civil protection, Oil&Gas) and defence objectives (surveillance). The overall features of the system allow it to interoperate with other systems and to be used within the context of international agreements. In particular, COSMO-SkyMed is able to meet the stringent operating requirements of the European Union/ESA Copernicus programme.



The constellation

The COSMO-SkyMed constellation comprises four identical satellites that “watch” the planet day and night, under any atmospheric conditions, thanks to high-resolution X-band radar. The system has been implemented in stages: the first satellite was launched in June 2007, the second in December 2007, the third in October 2008 and the fourth in November 2010.

Telespazio's role

Telespazio built the entire ground segment for COSMO-SkyMed. The Fucino Space Centre houses the control centre for the constellation, which managed the satellite early orbit phase and now carries out command and control activities and the planning of applications for the acquisition of images. The Matera Space Centre, which

is managed by e-GEOS, is responsible for the acquisition, processing and distribution of data for civil applications.

Through e-GEOS, furthermore, Telespazio is active in all areas relating to the Earth observation market: from acquiring and processing satellite data to developing and selling software and products. Specifically, e-GEOS is a leading international operator with an integrated range of application solutions and value-added services, based on radar and very high-resolution optical data. e-GEOS markets COSMO-SkyMed data worldwide. The COSMO-SkyMed program will move forward with the development of two second generation satellites with improved performance: additional imaging modes with improved image quality and full polarimetry capabilities.





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