

Rome, 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2013

## Selex ES takes part at the 64th International Astronautical Congress (IAC) in Beijing

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Selex ES, a Finmeccanica company, takes part at the 64<sup>th</sup> edition of the International Astronautical Congress (IAC), which is taking place in Beijing, China from 23<sup>rd</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> September.

The Finmeccanica company is a key player in the European space industry and boasts a well-established and traditional expertise in this domain, dating back to the early '60s with the first space equipment developed. Selex ES realises an extensive range of solutions for earth observation, planets exploration and navigation and telecommunications software. The product portfolio includes attitude control sensors, atomic clocks, mission payloads, power generation and distribution systems, radio frequency and robotic systems.

In particular Selex ES provides equipment, sub-systems and payload to the European Space Agency, the Italian Space Agency, NASA and other international customers.

During the International Astronautical Congress, within the Italian Space Agency (ASI) stand, Selex ES showcases the Drill and Sample Preparation and Distribution (SPDS). The Drill is a high-tech product used in the ExoMars program, the robotic mission which is part of the European Space Agency's Aurora program, aiming at finding traces of life on Mars surface and at analyzing the geochemical characteristics and distribution of water in various areas of the red planet. The Drill in particular is able to take samples of Martian material up to two meters depth and deposit them at the analytical laboratory of the ExoMars rover to allow the real-time analysis of the conformation of the Martian subsurface. Moreover, thanks to the VIS / IR (Visual / Infrared) MA-MISS (Mars Multispectral Imager for Subsurface Studies) spectrometer, inserted inside the Drill, it is also possible to analyze the internal surface of the perforation made by the drill itself.

Essential for achieving the scientific objectives of the mission, the Drill is part of the wide range of Selex ES products used in the ExoMars program which also includes the power supply and distribution units, photovoltaic generators and the stellar sensors of the Finmeccanica company.