

Rome, 28 September 2007

Galileo Avionica, part of the success of the European programme SOSTAR- X

Galileo Avionica, a Finmeccanica Company, is partner of the European programme SOSTAR-X aiming to meet NATO AGS (Airborne Ground Surveillance) requirements by the development, production and testing of an advanced Airborne Ground Surveillance radar system with an active AESA (Antenna Electronic Scanned Array) antenna.

The Radar named SOSTAR-X (Stand-off Surveillance and Target Acquisition Radar) is a system particularly suitable for the surveillance of vast areas observed from a great distance.

Launched in December 2001, the SOSTAR programme is managed by the SOSTAR GmbH Company, joint venture between: Dutch Space (Netherlands), EADS (Germany), Galileo Avionica (Italy), Indra Sistemas (Spain) and Thales (France). The SOSTAR GmbH is responsible for the management of the 90 M Euro multi-governative contract for the SOSTAR project which has recently entered in its final demonstration phase and should end by this year.

After having completed successfully the Final Acceptance Review in July 2007 testing the overall performance of the system, an Operational Demonstration of the SOSTAR-X has been carried out on the 20th of September 2007 at the military base of the Armée de l'Air in Cazaux (near Bordeaux), at presence of VIPs military staff and representative of the governments.

A complete demonstration of the main functionalities of the SOSTAR systems will be given, including: GMTI (Ground Moving Target Indicator) scanning of a vast area, search and tracking of moving targets (including helicopters), data gathering and analysis of high resolution SAR (Synthetic Aperture Radar) images (both SPOT and STRIP) which output can be shown simultaneously (first time in Europe). Most of the mission planning and operability of the SOSTAR system will be carried out on board the Fokker 100, by a specialized team.

While in use, the SOSTAR- X System observes from high altitude the same area scanned by the Radar (with a range up to a few hundred kilometres) both using the SAR mode and the GMTI mode for the detection of moving targets, also at a very low speed by using STAP (Spatial Time Adaptive Processing) techniques. Moreover, the SOSTAR allows to Classify the moving targets within different operative modes (HRR, ISAR, Spectral Classification). On board the Fokker aircraft, information are shown in real time on a digitalized map and are then sent to ground for results interpretation and decision making, through a dedicated Data link .

Within the SOSTAR programme, Galileo Avionica participated to the Radar System design activities (antenna, data processor, operative modes), the design and manufacturing of the Management system installed on board the Fokker 100 (Operation and Control), the Radome, the low noise Antenna Power Supply and the GMTI and Simultaneous modes. Thanks to the Company strong experience as systems integrator, Galileo Avionica also performed, always keeping a leading role position, the activities of Software and System integration as well as the system Experimental Flight Trials management (already finalized).

Quote of Renzo Meschini, Ceo of Galileo Avionica: "Participating to the SOSTAR-X programme was a great opportunity for my Company. The SOSTAR-X allowed us to achieve innovative international technological levels, confirming our strong capability in Surveillance from high altitude, a strategic field. The SOSTAR- X which has involved top industries such as Thales, EADS, Indra Sistemas, Dutch Space has given the European Industry the opportunity to stand aside the American industry as equals in a sector where till today the US had no rivals".

PRESS OFFICE

Solange Distefano Pozzuoli

Tel +39 0641883852

Cel. +39 335 7499374

Email: solange.distefanopozzuoli@galileoavionica.it

