

Genoa, 14 November 2007

**Press Release****Galileo Avionica leader of the SOBCAH consortium  
At MAST, the Company presents the project**

The MAST - Maritime Systems and Technology- exhibition will take place from the 14 to the 16 of November in Genoa at Porto Antico (Cotone Congress centre). At the Showcase Galileo Avionica, a Finmeccanica Company, will present the SOBCAH programme, a project financed by the European Community in the framework of the 2005 Preparatory Action for Security Research.

The SOBCAH programme has seen the participation of 16 European partners: industries, Organisations and Research Centres. Galileo Avionica is leader of the Consortium created for this programme, which also registers an important presence of other Finmeccanica companies: Selex Sensors and Airborne Systems Ltd, Selex Sistemi Integrati and Elsag - Datamat.

The main goal of SOBCAH is to validate an architecture for the protection and surveillance of the European harbour areas, in order to detect the main threats due to possible terrorist actions and therefore to reduce the risks to people, goods, commercial and logistic operations.

For the prevention and of these threats, SOBCAH uses the most advanced technologies including integrated sensors ( radar and electro-optics provided by Galileo Avionica) which are linked into a Command and Control Centre, called SOBCAH Engine.

Last July, the first demonstration of SOBCAH was carried out in the Port of Genoa (Voltri Terminal Europe- VTE), one of the most important commercial ports in Europe. The demonstration intended to evaluate the efficiency of the system, in particular for the safeguard of the green (land) and blue (maritime) borders.

The SOBCAH system has been validated by carrying out two simulations of terrorist attacks. Thanks to the support of the Italian Coast Guard, the two scenarios have been performed: the first – blue border – consisted in the simulated attack to a ship loaded with containers; the second – green border - an attack conducted by land for the introduction of illegal goods and substances into a container.

In both cases, the network of sensors have promptly and successfully sent the alarms and signals to the SOBCAH Engine allowing therefore the activation of the proper countermeasures.

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