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PRESS RELEASE

SELEX GALILEO's hyper - spectral technology on board the earth observation ASI mission PRISMA

Activities in SELEX GALILEO site of Campi Bisenzio are growing in preparation for the ASI mission PRISMA, due for launch by the end of 2011.

PRISMA (PRecursores IperSpettrale della Missione Applicativa) is a small satellite (<500 Kg) built by an industrial consortium responsible for the development of the mission, which includes: Carlo Gavazzi Space as Prime, SELEX GALILEO and Rheinmetall Italia. The contract awarded to SELEX GALILEO is worth 28 million Euros.

SELEX GALILEO participates in this Italian demonstrative and pre – operative mission with the Power Control Unit, the solar panels PVA, the autonomous star trackers AA-STR and, most of all, with the hyper-spectral sensor. PRISMA is an earth observation satellite which integrates an hyper-spectral sensor along with a medium resolution panchromatic camera. By detecting physical and chemical components, hyper-spectral technology will allow to monitor natural and atmosphere resources. At the same time, SELEX GALILEO sensors will take high resolution spectral images, precious in the development of new earth observation applications. Furthermore, the qualification in orbit of an hyper-spectral payload represents a milestone for the European space industry.

“This important programme – says Armando Buccheri, Director of SELEX GALILEO Space Line of Business – strengthens our European leadership in hyper-spectral optical technology and confirms SELEX GALILEO strong capability in the development of payloads for earth and Cosmo observation and scientific mission”.

In the past, SELEX GALILEO hyper-spectral sensors have been selected for major Cosmo exploration missions: from CASSINI to ROSETTA, to VENUS EXPRESS. Similar sensors have also been selected for ERS II and METOP I to study climate and environmental changes.

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