

Initiated by Telespazio France, and rooted in expertise in space and geoinformation domains, the EarthLab Galaxy program is based on a community principle.

EarthLab Galaxy is the first geo-information world cluster gathering local partnership hosted at the heart of economic and environmental challenges.

EarthLab Luxembourg is the third center to join this community.

EarthLab Galaxy: the international environmental monitoring partnership expands into Luxembourg

More than 200 satellites are expected to be launched for Earth Observation (EO) by 2020. New technologies associated with aircraft or drones [unmanned aerial systems (UAS)] are already complementing satellites to optimize the ability to observe all areas of the globe in [fine] detail.

The digital revolution, which is driving increased use of simple and mobile devices to access data (tablets, smartphones, etc.), the Internet and 'big data' offer a solid platform for wider uptake of satellite services and the global supply of geo-information.

In this context and with the growing need to monitor the environment at local and global levels, dissemination and adaptation of geo-information services to the greatest number is a crucial issue. This is now possible and the EarthLab programme, created by the Telespazio group, is part of this major global dynamic and provides a unique solution for the local release of geo-information.

Based on research units locally incorporating both experts from remote sensing and researchers from the environmental thematics, the EarthLab international network is driven by a global and local deployment scheme using all new Earth-observation assets and digital technologies to enhance understanding and monitoring of the environment.

In the next two years, the EarthLab Galaxy—the name given to this network—will be deployed on all continents and will be central to the great challenges facing environmental issues. The group Telespazio together with key public and private partners is using this new global geo-information approach to shape an agile and forward-looking solution totally in tune with the technological trends driving the processing of data and the creation of related applications.

The first **EarthLab Aquitaine** centre, opened in October 2013 in Latresne near Bordeaux, is the result of a partnership with the Aquitaine Regional Council and Aérocampus Aquitaine. It defines and provides end-to-end digital remote-sensing services for the winegrowing, forestry and coastal management communities. The first commercial contracts have demonstrated very promising performance for decision support in various applications such as minimization of inputs in vineyards, forest sanitary surveillance or coastal erosion monitoring.

EarthLab Gabon, based in Libreville, the second centre, will provide from 2015 the first space-based maritime services generated locally from a sub-Saharan country. It aims to deliver vital information in various domains such as oil spill monitoring and illegal fishing detection. This centre is a partnership between AGEOS, the Gabonese Agency for Space Studies and Observations, FGIS, the Gabonese Strategic Investment Fund, and Telespazio France.

With **EarthLab Luxembourg** a third centre joins the Galaxy with the clear objective to launch a new generation of industrial and environmental risk monitoring services. These geo-information services will focus on natural and industrial risk assessment and propose advanced services related to risk exposure for insurance, strategic economic assessment and asset management concerns in public and private sectors. Luxembourg offers a strong knowledge base in the fields of ICT and environmental monitoring technologies being in research and technology or service industry.

EarthLab Luxembourg: the European centre for a new generation of industrial and environmental risk monitoring services

The EarthLab programme in Luxembourg, presented during a press conference held on 9 June 2015, will play a key role as a unique centre housing R&D and operational activities in Europe for risk assessment.

With the expertise and funding support of Telespazio France, e-GEOS, POST Luxembourg and HITEC Luxembourg, from 2015 a local capability will be developed to deliver geo-information services focusing on natural and industrial risk assessment and proposing advanced services related to risk exposure for insurance, strategic economic assessment and asset management concerns in public and private sectors.

The decision to establish this third EarthLab centre of the Galaxy in Luxembourg was made to benefit from the advantages that the Grand Duchy offers. A key historical partner of European space, Luxembourg is the ideal gateway to the European market: the country hosts the European headquarters of many global companies; its fund administration sector is the second largest in the world due to its pre-eminent role in the European market; private banking is the other main pillar of the financial industry, as it is the largest in the Eurozone and is ranked sixth in the world; and the country is an attractive base for life insurance and reinsurance companies.

Besides its role as a key international financial centre and a prime business location, Luxembourg thrives as the ideal place for a global hub to host sensitive information with its first-class infrastructures and telecommunication networks, as well as a culture of trust and security backed by an appropriate legal framework. This will facilitate the development of the EarthLab Luxembourg data infrastructure into a secure cloud environment (private & public), which will be really valuable for the entire EarthLab Galaxy.

An exceptional partnership between referenced stakeholders

With the firm support of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg and its industrial landscape in the fields of ICT and environmental technologies, which is looking to foster the development of space science and technologies, and notably to develop applications and value-added services relying on satellite and ICT infrastructures, Telespazio France and e-GEOS have signed a partnership to deploy its third EarthLab centre with two Luxembourg industrial partners: the POST Luxembourg group and SME HITEC Luxembourg SA. The latter bring in their know how in the field of secure communication networks as well as their ICT competences and skills.

With its expertise operating and exploiting satellite assets for more than 30 years, Telespazio France and e-GEOS today provides space-based value-added services and applications in the domains of geo-information, navigation and telecommunications.

About Telespazio France

Telespazio France is the French subsidiary of Telespazio, a company of Finmeccanica (66%) and Thales (33%) (€658 million in revenues in 2014 with a worldwide workforce of 2,500 employees). The history of Telespazio has been marked by key advances and major technological breakthroughs, including the first TV transmission by satellite in 1964 for the Tokyo Olympic Games, the live TV broadcast five years later of man's first steps on the Moon, and the deployment and exploitation of the first ever Earth-Observation radar constellation (COSMO-SkyMed).

For several years now, Telespazio France's expertise has converged to develop a value-added services portfolio dedicated to specific markets. These highly effective and customized suites of services offer customers operational answers to strategic needs. Telespazio France has played a pioneering role in satellite-based services around the world, launching in recent months several solutions and programmes with this traditional spirit of innovation:

- EarthLab, the worldwide environmental monitoring programme
- Mobil' in city, the first project putting Galileo at the heart of urban mobility,
- A wide range of services dedicated to media, energy and retail markets.

Based in Toulouse and chaired by Jean-Marc Gardin, the company has offices in Paris, Bordeaux, Kourou and Libreville.

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About e-GEOS

e-GEOS, an ASI (20%) / Telespazio (80%) company, is a leading international player in the Earth Observation and Geo-Spatial Information business.

e-GEOS offers a unique portfolio of application services, also thanks to the superior monitoring capabilities of COSMO-SkyMed constellation, and has acquired a leading position within European Copernicus Program.

Application services include: monitoring for environmental protection, rush mapping in support to natural disaster management, specialized products for defense and intelligence, oil spill and ship detection for maritime surveillance, interferometric measurements for landslides and ground subsidence analysis, thematic mapping for agriculture and forestry.

In support to its operational applications, e-GEOS operates the Matera Space Centre for acquisition, archiving and processing of multi-mission satellite data including COSMO-SkyMed and ESA Sentinels.

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About POST Luxembourg group

Founded in 1842, POST Luxembourg has been a public service company since 1992. The Luxembourg State is its sole shareholder. POST Luxembourg operates postal, financial and telecommunication services. POST is the leading provider of postal and telecommunication services in Luxembourg.

In the field of telecommunications, POST operates a fixed-line and mobile network providing a full range of voice, data and Internet services, including satellite uplinks. One of our significant investment projects has been the deployment of an ultra-high-speed fibre optic network in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg.

Its subsidiary POST Telecom S.A. is the leading operator in mobile telephony.

POST serves its residential and professional customers, including banks, international insurance companies and European institutions. POST offers state-of-the-art technology and provides tailor-made services to the business community. Its international high-speed fibre optic network, TERALINK (www.teralink.biz), connects major financial and economic global players, both to and from Luxembourg.

A key stakeholder in the national economy, POST Luxembourg Group and its 19 subsidiaries employ over 4,000 staff members. It is one of the largest employers in Luxembourg.

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About HITEC Luxembourg S.A.

HITEC Luxembourg S.A., a 100%-owned Luxembourg company, has developed its business activities in the field of innovative and quality products and services. The company is ISO 9001 certified for engineering, analysis, consulting, manufacturing, maintenance and sales of systems in mechanics, electronics, physical measuring techniques as well as information and communication technologies. The Luxembourg ESR label for corporate social responsibility (CSR) certifies the commitment by HITEC Luxembourg to monitor and promote an approach to CSR with respect to economic, social and environmental dimensions of its stakeholders. The company has been awarded with the SuperDrecksKëscht fir Betriber label for its contribution to an environmental friendly waste management. The label is certified in accordance with the ISO 14024:2000 standard.

HITEC Luxembourg offers high technology solutions covering different business areas: satellite ground segment technology; customer specific and standard equipment for testing and measuring of physical properties; engineering; consulting; software & ICT development and project management. HITEC Luxembourg serves private and public sector customers at a national and international level. Its business objectives, as a specialized high technology provider are to achieve a strong sustainable market position; to expand its activities at an international level as well as to promote the Luxembourg site through the realization of innovative high quality value-added products and services.

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