

PRESS RELEASE

CESI and ASI Sign Agreement in Support of the Space Factory Project

Milan, August 8, 2023 - Italian multinational CESI (Centro Elettrotecnico Sperimentale Italiano) and the Italian Space Agency (ASI) have signed a major agreement, worth more than 13 million euros, in support of the Space Factory project. The project represents a strategic asset for Italy, helping to strengthen the skills of the national industrial supply chain in the space sector.

As a result of the signed agreement and the PNRR funds managed by ASI, CESI will be able to increase its production capacity of solar cells for space satellites, introduce digitized production processes and use new monitoring technologies and state-of-the-art machinery. Domenico Villani, CEO of CESI Group, states: "Being a part of the Italian Space Factory gives us such pride, as this project will put our country at the forefront of the space sector and have a significant impact on technology advancement. Our Group is contributing our experience to the design and production of solar cells for space in support of this effort. In orbit today, more than 100 satellites for civilian use are made in more than 25 countries and equipped with solar cells produced by CESI."

CESI's solar cells have high efficiency and fully meet the needs of space missions. These cells are composed of materials (gallium arsenide and indium gallium phosphide) that make them particularly suitable for the space environment, which is much more demanding than on Earth. In space, the silicon in ordinary terrestrial solar cells would not hold up adequately. CESI cells are qualified for both low earth orbit (LEO) and geostationary orbit (GEO) satellites.

CESI is one of the world's four leading manufacturers of these products and the only one under total European, specifically Italian, control. Its cells are made, under proprietary patent, in its laboratories in Milan.

The goal of the Factory is to become the driving force for future investments through private parties engaged in the creation of satellite constellations and megaconstellations, projecting Italy even further ahead in the exploration of the cosmos.



Shaping a Better Energy Future

CESI (Centro Elettrotecnico Sperimentale Italiano) has been offering services in the fields of innovation, digitization, testing, engineering, and consulting for the electrical sector and in civil and environmental engineering to its customers located in more than 70 countries around the world for almost seventy years. CESI is among the few companies in the world to develop and manufacture advanced solar cells for space applications.

In addition, through its KEMA Labs Division, the Group is the independent world leader in testing, inspection, and certification of components and systems for the electrical and digital industries.

Its main customers are power generation companies, space agencies, transmission and distribution grid operators, international manufacturers of electrical and digital components and systems, private investors, public institutions (governments, public administration, local authorities), and regulatory authorities. In addition, CESI works closely with international financial institutions such as World Bank, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, Inter-American Bank, Asian Development Bank and Arab Fund.

CESI has offices in Milan, Arnhem (NL), Berlin and Mannheim (GE), Chalfont and Knoxville (USA), Prague, Dubai, Rio de Janeiro, Shanghai (China), and Santiago, Chile.

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