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Author: Mr. RICCARDO INGROSSO  
Italian Space Agency (ASI), Italy

Mrs. Maria Cristina Falvella  
Italian Space Agency (ASI), Italy

Mrs. germana spirito  
Italian Space Agency (ASI), Italy

Dr. Enrico Russo  
ASI - Italian Space Agency, Italy

NEW PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP MODEL IN ITALIAN SPACE SECTOR

**Abstract**

The space sector in recent years has undergone unprecedented transformations and developments on a global scale. Small satellites, broadband everywhere, space tourism and continuous innovation in downstream applications represent some of these most recent evolutions. This disruptive sectorial dynamic, often defined “New Space”, features various interrelated trends leading the space sector towards a more business and service-oriented stage. However, one particular dynamic and transformative factor is the revolution in downstream space applications, attracting new governmental and commercial actors. These transformations put new competitive pressures on governments to adopt reforms for enabling start-ups and innovative firms to find or to retain niches in which they could express the most of their capabilities. Today, a growing focus on the development of downstream applications with specific policy actions is particularly important. Italy is preparing to face these challenges in an increasingly cohesive and compact way. With the approval of the Law Decree N. 7/2018 Italy changed its governance structure in the space sector. The Prime Minister will have the high direction and the coordination of the ministerial policies related to space programmes. With this new Governance and with the execution of the Strategic Plan for Space Economy 2016 (now in update) Italy has provided itself with the instruments necessary to take the opportunity offered by the New Space Economy. The national Space sector can therefore become one of the propulsion engine of the new growth of the country by leveraging on new and more cohesive Public and Private Partnership (PPP). The new program for satellite telecommunications called Ital-GovSatCom was born in this light. Ital-GovSatCom represent one of the four pillars in the Strategic Plan for Space Economy and is considered the first real example of Public-Private Partnership (PPP) in the field of space activities. The legal framework foreseen for this project will permit to have a stable mechanism for sharing risks and responsibilities between Public and Private actors. It will allow Italy to obtain an important position in a strategic sector such as those of institutional telecommunications. This paper will illustrate the legal framework, tools and main aspects foreseen to ensure the active participation of the private sector, such as the Partnership for Innovation (PPI) and the role of Regions with some considerations on estimated return.