

Rome, 22 September 2009

SELEX Sistemi Integrati wins Danube shipping control contract in Serbia

As team leader of a temporary consortium of companies with Periskal D.o.o (Serbia) and Tresco CVBA (Belgium), SELEX Sistemi Integrati, a Finmeccanica company, has won a contract worth 6.4 million euro to implement the River Information Service (RIS) on the stretch of the Danube that crosses Serbia.

The River Information System in Serbia, launched and financed by the European Union, is the first traffic monitoring system for boats on large waterways.

The project involves the control and automated management of river traffic on the Danube, both to ensure shipping safety and to meet administrative and commercial needs. It will be able to integrate all the data acquired and provide information to the various groups of users.

The system will consist of a national river control centre with various operational posts, local and remote stations equipped with monitors and video-projectors, land and onboard sensors and maintenance and logistics staff.

A database, linked with the authorities of nearby countries on the Danube (including Hungary, Romania and Bulgaria), will also be created, and will provide information on national river traffic, freight transported and the characteristics of the ships on the water. It will also enable river maps, local weather conditions and traffic conditions at the river locks to be continually updated, and provide news to boat crews.

For SELEX Sistemi Integrati, the RIS contract represents a new business frontier in a sector that has wide-ranging growth opportunities worldwide and which facilitates the expansion of river cargo transport and shipping in general on the great rivers that cross the borders of various countries.

RIS can be considered a derivative of the VTS (Vessel Traffic Service) system, although it is equipped with different functions and dedicated to river rather than sea shipping.

SELEX Sistemi Integrati has been active in the development of complex maritime traffic control systems for many years. In Italy, the company created the world's largest coastal protection system, able to ensure real-time coverage across 7,500 km of Italian coastline. The most recent VTS contract concerns Yemen, while in previous years, SELEX Sistemi Integrati has provided similar systems in China, Saint Petersburg and Poland.