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## THALES ALENIA SPAZIO

An overview of the current and future programmes the French-Italian space company is involved in, following the completion of the International Space Station (ISS), mostly concerning the new ATV expendable autonomous modules (the first of them, named JULES VERNE, already was launched, while KEPLER, the second, will be launched in next November and five more already have been ordered) and the nine new CYCNUS cargo modules.

## DRS TECHNOLOGIES

An interview our Editor-in-Chief had with Mark S. Newman, CEO of the US DRS Technologies, a company with over 10,000 employees operating in the defence electronics business the Italian Finmeccanica group took over in 2008 within its internationalisation process. The article reviews all the activities of the American group, with a special attention paid to the ones having recourse to the latest technologies.



## THE INCURSORI (RAIDERS) OF THE ITALIAN AIR FORCE

Report from our correspondent visiting Italian Air Force's 17<sup>th</sup> Wing Incursori, a special unit formed by 100-150 operators - established on March, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2003, and based at Furbara airport - able to operate in all the scenarios with minimum notice and so to quickly respond in case of international crisis. While ready to cover a wide range of special forces' typical activities, the 17<sup>th</sup> Wing is markedly aviation-oriented, in that its personnel usually play the role of Forward Air Traffic Controllers.

## THE PASSIVE RADAR

The passive radar is a particular radar category using primary emitters of opportunity (as existing telecommunications, satellite navigation and radar systems) so building a surveillance system only based on receivers, i.e. of a wholly passive type. The article presents the latest developments in this sector, with a particular attention paid to what SELEZ Sistemi Integrati is doing in Italy.



## VTOL UAS NORTHROP GRUMMAN-STYLE - THE RQ-8 FIRE SCOUT

While the development and in particular the entry into service of the fixed wing UAS (formerly UAV) was far from being a smooth and seamless undertaking, the same and even worst fate affected the rotary wing UAS, with endless stop-and-go and radical reviews of the related programmes. This article deals with one of the more advanced and mature programme currently being carried out: the tentatively joint-service RQ-8 FIRE SCOUT (whose jointness and designation still are not fixed).

