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## Immediate press release

Rome 21th, 22th November 2005 – Palazzo Taverna – Via di Monte Giordano 37

### **First Session of the Intergovernmental Coordinating Group for the Tsunami Early Warning and Mitigation System in the Northeastern Atlantic, the Mediterranean and Connected Seas.**

Organized by: UNESCO – IOC (International Oceanographic Commission), Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry for Environment and Protection of the Territory

Sponsored by: Envirtech S.p.A. and Telecom Italia S.p.A.

Envirtech S.p.A. ([www.envirtech.org](http://www.envirtech.org)) and Telecom Italia S.p.A. have combined their efforts to develop a project for the experimentation of a very high reliability system that can be used to collect tsunamogenic precursors and, in the meantime, is capable to monitor effective tsunami occurrence rising early warnings to the coastal Authority.

#### About the prototype-system

The prototype-system consists of two main components. The deep ocean bottom platform and the relay companion buoy. The sea bottom platform is capable to collect both seismic waves and high precision pressure to evaluate the origin and effective passage of a Tsunami. The companion buoy equipped with Inmarsat transceivers allows bidirectional communications with a shore control center and, through acoustic modems, to the ocean bottom platform.

#### About the MeTAS project

At present Envirtech, Telecom Italia and the Italian Agency for the Protection of the Environment and for Technical Services (**APAT**) are involved in the MeTAS, **Mediterranean Tsunami Alarm System**. The first step of MeTAS consisted in deploying one deep ocean platform, which is real time connected to the related buoys, in the South Tyrrhenian Sea to calibrate procedure and software tuning.

Telemetry collected is relayed to Telecom Italia Fucino Inmarsat LES and via leased line to the Envirtech laboratory for necessary preliminary tests. Data are analyzed by APAT that is giving necessary scientific support.

#### About the companies

**Telecom Italia Group** is an Italian enterprise belonging to the telecommunications sector. One of Europe's industry leaders, Group companies include many top Information and Communication Technology firms. Telecom Italia is also Inmarsat LES (Land Earth Station) Operator and Service provider for the East and West Atlantic and Indian regions. Since 1999 Telecom Italia has managed the Italian Sea Waves Network, owned by APAT, capable to collect sea waves parameters from 19 buoys around the Italian coasts.

**Envirtech** is an Italian engineering and manufacturer company capable to develop, built and deploy deep ocean bottom and surface systems implementing high redundancy data acquisition and high reliability communications.

Envirtech designed the Italian Sea Waves network, giving the necessary know-how to develop the same network along the Spanish coasts too. Envirtech is also an Inmarsat solution provider supplying worldwide asset tracking services. The company has a manufacturing facility in the North East of Italy (Treviso) where builds and tests the tsunami warning systems and related devices. Envirtech has agencies in the Mediterranean Sea countries, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Philippines and Singapore.

#### About APAT

**APAT** is the Italian Agency for the Protection of the Environment and for Technical Services. APAT performs the tasks and the technical scientific activities of national interest for the protection of the environment, the safeguard of water resources and soil defense. APAT is provided with technical, scientific and financial autonomy, and is subject to the supervision and vigilance of the **Minister of the Environment and Territory**. In the sectors falling within its own tasks, APAT carries out cooperation, consulting, service and support activities for other public Administrations, defined through ad hoc Agreements. APAT is integrated in a network system, the Environmental Agencies System, consisting of 21 Regional (ARPA) and Provincial (APPA) Agencies, spread throughout the territory, as established by Regional and Provincial Laws.

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