



INVESaT- Bridging the gap between **IN**novative enterprises and financial **inVE**stors in the emerging ICT markets of **SaT**ellite applications.

INVESaT successfully launches networking activities and expertise work

After six months of project activity, the First INVESaT Networking Event on May 23rd 2006 has marked a successful start of the INVESaT Club, giving way to future networking activities and expert workshops within the scope of the project.

The objective of the 1st Networking Event was to bring together innovative SMEs in the area of satellite-based ICT applications, investors interested in related market opportunities deriving from space programmes, and major players of the space sector.

Revealing new insights into business creation and finance, presented by high-level expert speakers, the event found the general approval of the around 80 attendees, comprising representatives of the financial community, space industry, innovative SMEs, entrepreneurs, public organisations and business and innovation centres.

The workshop not only provided an excellent opportunity for networking and exchange, but was also an occasion for the participants to share their experience and opinions about the opportunities to be expected from the applications of space for the development of new markets, about difficulties and barriers encountered, which prevent for new business opportunities to be seized faster and with stronger economic impact.

Having pinpointed major difficulties, needs and expectations, the participants expressed their affirmation regarding the launch of the INVESaT expertise work, which aims at consolidating and disseminating the knowledge components required to more efficiently support investments in innovative space-intensive information and communication activities. For this purpose, three two-day workshops will take place in October 2006, January and April 2007.

Future INVESaT networking opportunities are scheduled for April 17th and 18th 2007 and May 2008, in order to foster collaboration between the various actors of the space related value-added chain, investors and generalists in innovation financing.

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