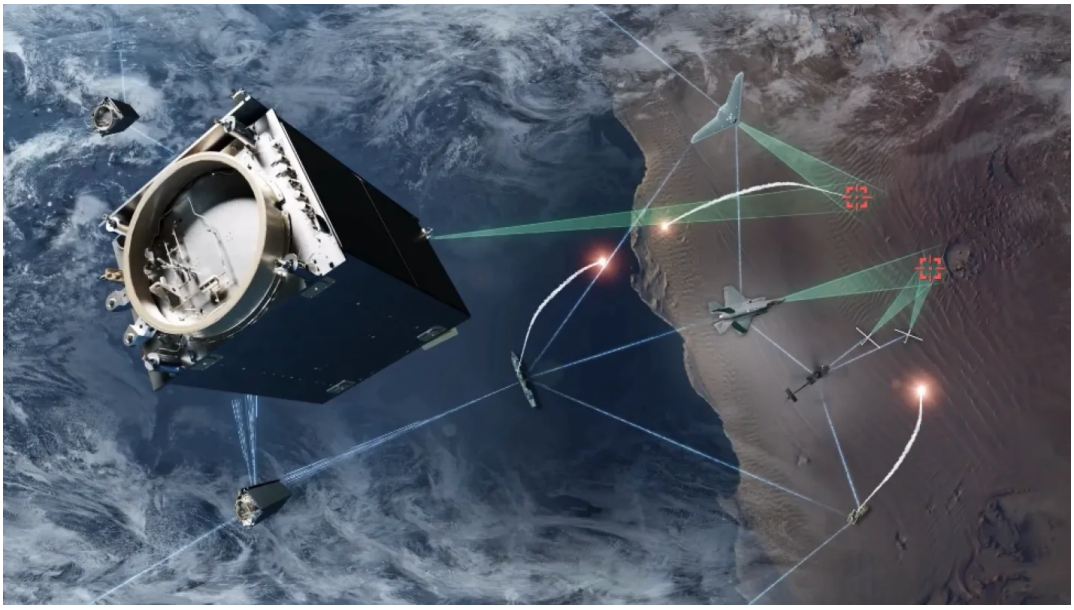

Defense & Space: Without a Sovereign Satellite Chain, the European DOME Risks Remaining an Illusion.

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In the landscape of modern defense, the maxim that "*speed beats complexity*" has become an unavoidable operational axiom. As highlighted by recent strategic and industrial developments overseas – where giants like Lockheed Martin push for total integration between orbital sensors, fifth-generation fighters (F-35), and command and control nodes (C2BMC) –, the challenge is no longer to invent individual interception vectors, but to **drastically reduce reaction time (speed-to-decision)**.

However, when Europe discusses the ambitious prospect of an integrated missile defense system – a true continental "Dome" as repeatedly invoked in strategic debates – it systematically encounters a structural vulnerability: **dependency or fragmentation in the space domain.**

The Missing Link of the European DOME: Orbital Early Warning

A long-range air and missile defense system cannot overlook what happens hundreds or thousands of kilometers above. The interception architecture (whether based on advanced missile batteries or multi-domain platforms) is blind and deaf if not fed in real-time by data from constellations dedicated to **infrared Early Warning** (OPIR) and persistent tracking.

Thinking of erecting a European defensive shield without a proprietary, resilient, and sovereign satellite backbone means condemning the architecture to unacceptable strategic dependency. The value chain of modern defense starts from low (LEO) and medium (MEO) orbit: whoever controls the data from orbital sensors controls the entire operational theater.

Argotec: Italy's Technological Spearhead in Space

In this complex scenario, Italy confirms itself as one of the few European players capable of expressing top-tier industrial and technological expertise. If Europe seeks the formula to bridge the infrastructure gap, the industrial response inevitably passes through national excellences, with Argotec at the forefront as a true technological spearhead.

Founded in Turin and boasting a cutting-edge production ecosystem like the **SpacePark** – a center of excellence for the mass production of highly reliable microsatellites – the Italian company has demonstrated extraordinary delivery capability in the space sector. The successes related to the development and release of satellites for the HEO component of the **IRIDE** constellation, coordinated by the European Space Agency (ESA) and the Italian Space Agency (ASI) with strong government support, testify to the industrial maturity achieved by the Italian aerospace sector.

Argotec's microsatellites combine robustness standards derived from deep space with a *dual-use* (civil and military) flexibility that represents exactly the fundamental building block on which Italy and Europe should build their strategic resilience.

Conclusions: Sovereignty Passes Through Orbit

The lesson from modern crisis theaters and global technological evolution is clear: informational superiority is the ultimate force multiplier. A hypothetical European "Dome" cannot rely on declarations of intent or the mere aggregation of heterogeneous ground-based missile batteries.

Europe must accelerate the transition towards an autonomous space infrastructure for observation and early warning. In this crucial game for the sovereignty of the Old Continent, Italy already possesses the industrial asset and engineering skills necessary. Valuing and scaling the model of excellence represented by Argotec is not only a rewarding industrial choice but a geopolitical imperative to avoid being sidelined in the defense of tomorrow.