Space Cold War between Paris and Berlin. Argotec aims for Nasdaq and challenges global giants

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As the Grand Palais spotlights turn on for the international space summit in Paris — marked by the surprising absence of German Chancellor Friedrich Merz and growing tensions with Washington over European strategic autonomy ambitions — the Italian space industry demonstrates leading industrial and technological maturity. In a global market shaken by the confrontation between protectionist or muscular visions of major state actors, our country's response passes through stories of entrepreneurial and technological success like that of Argotec.

The Paris summit and cracks in the Franco-German axis

The Paris summit opens under the sign of geopolitical turbulence. On one hand, **Emmanuel Macron's France is pushing hard for rigorous European space governance**, founded on strategic autonomy in launch vehicles (with Arianespace) and strict community preference

criteria to secure the 60 billion of the next European budget dedicated to space. On the other hand, Germany chooses a line of clear pragmatic realism: **Berlin refuses to exclude American giants like SpaceX** — whose low-cost launches are considered essential in the short term — and pursues autonomous investments and visions, including a parallel national defense constellation compared to the European dual IRIS² project.

Geopolitics of space: Paris and Berlin divide, the White House presses, but Italy responds with Argotec's global growth

Further complicating the picture are **the pressures exerted by the White House on American giants (from SpaceX to Blue Origin) and China's aggressive positioning,** present in Paris with CNSA executives. In this fragmented scenario, in which Europe struggles to find a unified industrial synthesis between the crossed vetoes of Paris and Berlin, Italy enters as a protagonist thanks to a solid value chain and pockets of excellence in the minisatellite segment and dual-use technologies.

Italian certainty: Argotec between NASA and major global challenges

While European politics discusses sovereignty, in fact it is companies that open the paths of the future. **This is the case of Argotec, the Turin-based company led by founder and CEO David Avino, whose trajectory perfectly embodies the welding between national technological expertise and global markets. Born in Foligno and a former paratrooper of the Folgore**, Avino has transformed a pioneering SME into an industrial giant capable of engaging as an equal with NASA, ESA, and major Defense players.

The company's numbers tell a story of headlong growth: from 57 million in revenue recorded in 2025 (+60%) the aim is directly at 100 million for the end of 2026, with a workforce grown to 350 employees and the stated goal of reaching 500. An expansion fueled not only by the civil and institutional market, but also by strong positioning in the security sector: Argotec's dual-use technologies already represent a significant share of revenue today, destined to rise to 50%.

From solar storms to Nasdaq

The technological challenges faced by Argotec range from advanced scientific exploration to the protection of critical terrestrial infrastructure. Among the standout innovations is **MiniCor**, the first mission managed by Argotec's U.S. subsidiary: a 32-kilogram microsatellite developed together with NASA, Johns Hopkins APL, and Naval Research Laboratory to study solar storms from space and prevent blackouts or billion-dollar damage to satellites and power grids. Added to this is the future **Henon** mission (developed with ESA and INAF), which will venture 27 million kilometers from Earth to intercept solar phenomena hours in advance.

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This momentum finds its productive engine in the **SpacePark in Turin**, a cutting-edge facility born from over 35 million euros in investments, capable of producing up to 80 satellites a year. A serial and integrated industrial model — tested also with the 25 Earth observation satellites of the national Iride program — which today looks decisively overseas, with the new factory in Florida at Melbourne and the development of telecommunications technologies in California.

While European space diplomacy laboriously seeks to bridge the rifts between community partners, the Italian route made of targeted investments, advanced manufacturing capacity, and openness to international markets — with the stated goal of a future Nasdaq listing — demonstrates that our country possesses the industrial antibodies necessary to play a leading role in the new geopolitical order of space.