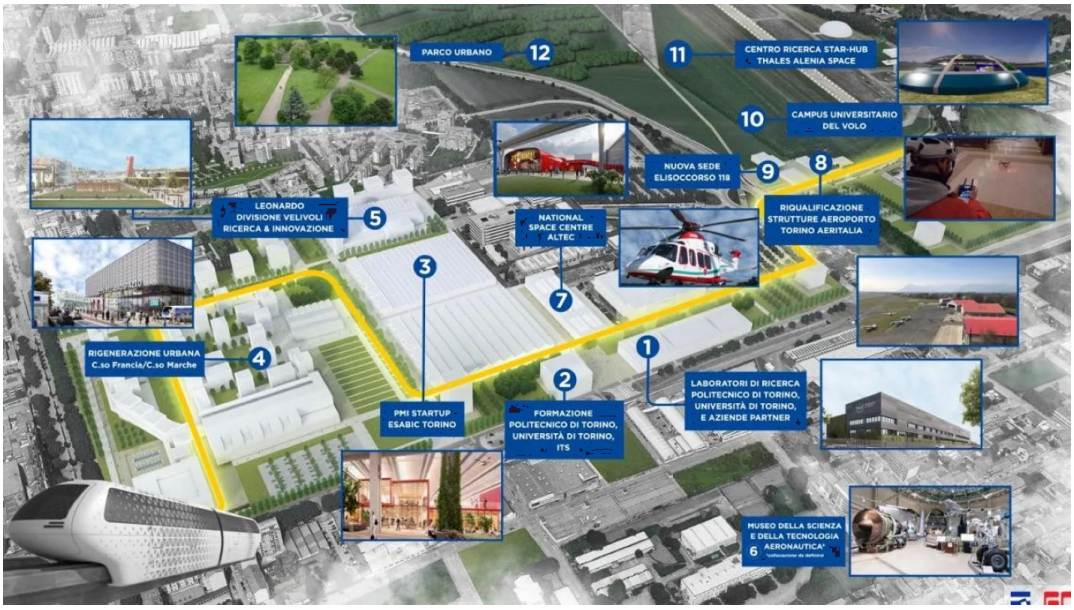

Turin: The City of Aerospace - an Opportunity for the Army

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The agreement between the Piedmont Region and the Polytechnic University of Turin that initiates the expansion of the Corso Marche area is not just a construction project awaited for years: it is a step that consolidates Turin as a **national platform for the space economy** and, above all, opens an operational window for an actor already living in the city and its transformation: the **Officers of the Italian Army** attending the **School of Application**.

With **Building 37** (10,000 sqm for research funded by the PNRR, with completion expected by 2026) and the future **House of SMEs** in Building 27 (estimated 30–35 million, public-private model to be defined), the “City of Aerospace” evolves from a label to a real infrastructure: laboratories, enterprises, dual-use technologies, demonstrators, and skills that directly impact contemporary ways of conducting operations, including land maneuvers.

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Why this is a specific opportunity for the Army

In the Italian public debate, “space” is often treated as something the Army can simply **receive** (SATCOM, images, PNT/GNSS, alerts). But this approach is increasingly risky: today space is an **operational multiplier**, **target**, **source of vulnerability**, and a “terrain” of competition, with immediate effects on land battles (sensor-to-shooter, C2 resilience, force protection, navigation, and synchronization). This is the central thesis of the analysis “Space is not someone else's,” which focuses on a simple point: without organic “land-centric” competence on space effects, the land component ends up depending on others in terms of timing, priorities, and even operational language.

Translated for Turin: the City of Aerospace can become **the living classroom** where to build (or accelerate) that culture, transforming an industrial district into a **multidomain gym** for the Officers of the School of Application.

Space is not someone else's: why the Italian Army must oversee the space domain for future Land operations

The US lesson: “in-house” competence without duplicating missions

A useful reference comes from the United States. In a February 6, 2026 interview with *Breaking Defense*, Col. **Felix Torres** (SMDC Center of Excellence) explains that the new US Army space-related career (about **1,000 positions**, MOS “40D Tactical Space Operations Specialist”) is not born to “invade” the Space Force's field, but because each Armed Force has **specific needs**: the Army mainly oversees the **tactical realm** and effects on land maneuvers, while the Space Force remains focused on orbital operations and satellite control. The key concept is that **overlap does not mean duplication**: it is possible to coexist in the same domain with different, integrated missions.

This logic is perfectly consistent with the Turin objective: using Corso Marche not to “make space” instead of others, but to make the land component **competent and autonomous** in the tactical-operational use of space effects.

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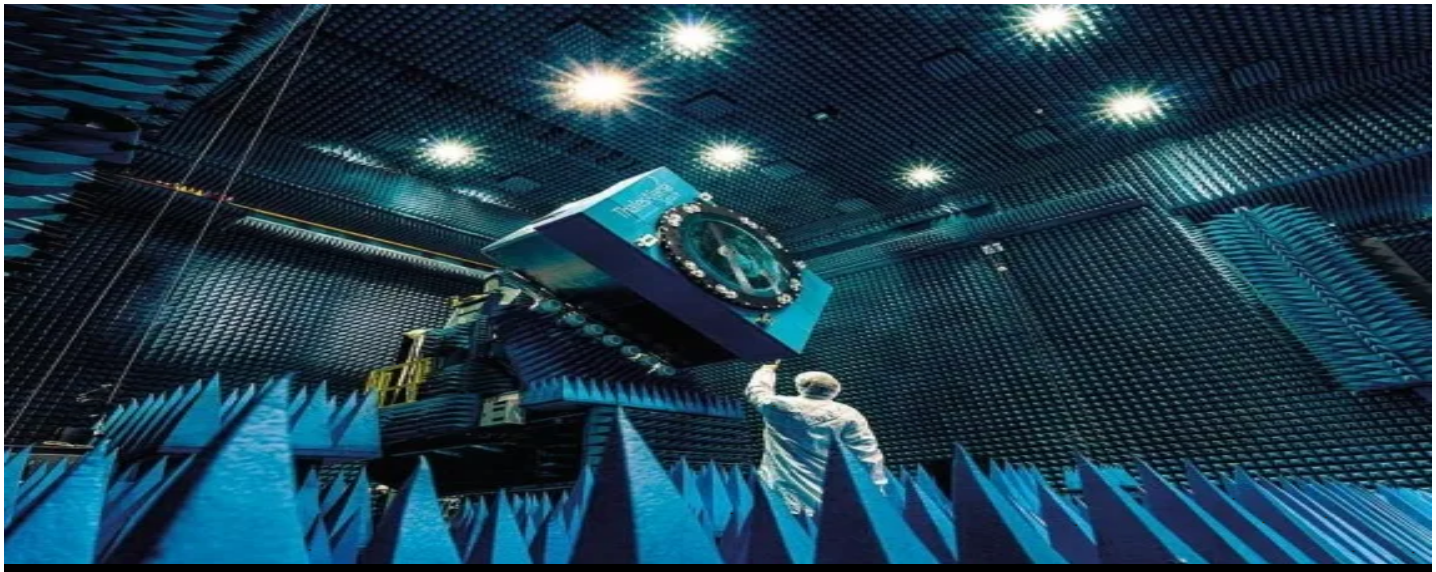
In Italy, space is already an operational domain: now educational consequences are needed

Italy is not starting from scratch. The **Space Operations Command (COS)** was established on **June 8, 2020** with the mission to enhance national capability in the space domain, protect/defend assets, and integrate space services into operations.
And training is already including realistic scenarios: in the Annual Space Exercises where the COS integrated space into planning and conduct processes, including cases like **SATCOM jamming**, risk management, and the use of satellite services to support land campaigns.

The issue, then, is not “if” space matters for the Land, but **who governs it** when needed: at the brigade/battalion/task force level, in the operational minute, within degraded and contested environments.



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City of Aerospace + School of Application: a natural bridge

That's why the expansion of Corso Marche can become a great opportunity for the School of Application: **Turin is concentrating in the same place** universities, large enterprises, SMEs, and laboratories on technologies that directly impact the decisive functions of land operations:

- **Resilient C2** and beyond-line-of-sight communications (tactical SATCOM, jamming mitigation);
- **PNT** and defense against spoofing/jamming (synchronization, fire, logistics, C2 networks);
- **ISR/targeting** and reduction of sensor-to-shooter times;
- **Force protection** and situational awareness in multidomain contexts.

Moreover, the Turin axis is also strengthening on the “new space” industrial side: the **IRIDE** program, an Italian Government initiative coordinated by ESA with ASI support and funded with PNRR resources, aims to provide satellite data and services to support Public Administration and territory monitoring; it is a concrete piece of the national supply chain that also lives in the Turin area.

The proposal: transform Corso Marche into an “operational campus” for Officers

To make the opportunity measurable (and not just narrative), the City of Aerospace could host a **stable path** dedicated to the Officers of the School of Application, with three pillars:

1. **Operational literacy on the space domain** (lexicon, value chain, limits, and vulnerabilities) with real cases of “degraded space environment.”
2. **Space–Cyber–EW integration for Land maneuver**, with tabletop exercises and scenarios where PNT/SATCOM/ISR are degraded and TTPs need to be adapted.
3. **Connection with SMEs and laboratories** (House of SMEs + Building 37) to understand how rapid solutions are born: prototypes, sensors, data fusion, adaptive training, predictive maintenance—with immediate impacts on readiness and sustainability.

News link: https://torino.corriere.it/notizie/economia/26_febbraio_28/torino-intesa-regione-politecnico-per-la-citta-dell-aerospazio-lanciamo-la-casa-delle-pmi-fffe4542-f289-4125-a0df-41d31e861xlk.shtml?refresh_ce