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## Press Release

### **COSMOTE supports the academic community's research on the Universe**

- *Provision of antenna infrastructure at the "THERMOPYLAE" Satellite Communications Center*
- *Development of the first radio telescope of international standards in Greece*

April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2018

COSMOTE supports the scientific academic community's **research on the Universe** and the development of **Radio-Astronomy** in Greece by providing the Hellenic Open University and the Department of Electronic Engineering at the Technological Educational Institute of Sterea Ellada, access to a satellite communications antenna infrastructure, located at the OTE Group Satellite Communications Center in **Thermopylae**. The antenna has a 30 meter diameter and will be transformed into the **first radio telescope, of international standards**, in Greece, and will be used to receive radio signals from the universe.

The antenna infrastructure will be granted to the scientific research teams of the School of Science and Technology of the Hellenic Open University, led by the Assistant Professor-Radio Astronomer, Dr Nectaria A.B. Gizani, and the Telecommunication Systems and Applications Research Laboratory of the Department of Electronic Engineering of the Technological Educational Institute of Sterea Ellada, led by the Assistant Professor-Physicist & RF Engineer, Dr Giorgos Veldes. OTE Group will cover the operational expenses of the infrastructure. Upon completion of its construction, the modern radio telescope will contribute (among other) to the development of scientific research in **Radio astronomy**, the enhancement of the **know-how** and the conduct of **geodetic seismological research in Greece**.

Dr Nectaria Gizani underlined: *"The construction and operation of the first radio telescope of international standards in Greece will benefit **our country** in many ways, such as the development of the Hellenic radio astronomy in addition to linking our telescope to the European and Global Very Long Baseline Interferometry and the organization of international and national scientific conferences. Moreover, the **scientific academic community** will acquire the necessary infrastructure for scientific research and for students' and pupils' education, for geodetic studies of the seismological region of Greece and for the development of new fields of applications in RF-technology and the Hellenic industry. **The public** will experience the amazing invisible side of the Universe at low energies, which cannot be seen with our own eyes. In addition, we expect to inspire and initiate specialized expertise, which will work towards discovery and innovation for the progress of Greece".*

*"Our ambition is to create and provide the academic community of our country with a unique scientific tool that will produce **new knowledge** and develop **innovative technologies**. Implementing educational activities to familiarize students with the wonderful invisible world that surrounds us, will be one of our key priorities",* said Dr Giorgos Veldes.

The Chief Officer of Technology and Operations of OTE Group, Mr Stefanos Theocharopoulos, said: *"Our vision at COSMOTE is to create [a better world, for all](#), through technology. In this context, the Thermopylae Satellite Communications Center will be the basis for the academic community to **decipher the secrets of the universe**. We put **technology in the service of science**, we reinforce **innovation** and stand next to research initiatives that benefit society and our country."*

About the OTE Group Satellite services

The “NEMEA” and “THERMOPYLAE” Satellite Communications Centers, are among the most significant satellite communications centers (teleports) in Europe. International satellite organizations have selected the OTE Group satellite communications centers to cover large geographic regions, to broadcast TV content, for international interconnection services, voice and internet services (INMARSAT, EUTELSAT, HELLASSAT, SES, etc.). Addressing the global market and through integrated solutions, OTE Group is a gateway to Europe, America, Australia, Africa, the Middle East, and Asia.

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