

Rome, 31 July 2006

Finmeccanica confirms its wish to maintain stake in Avio

Following recent press reports about the disposal of shareholdings in Avio, Finmeccanica would like to state that:

- Pier Francesco Guarguaglini, Chairman and Chief Executive of Finmeccanica, has on a number of occasions emphasised Finmeccanica's interest in maintaining a stake in Avio, even following any change to its shareholder structure.
- Finmeccanica's board of directors has been informed of the talks under way between the Carlyle Group and potential acquirers regarding the sale of Avio. Finmeccanica is monitoring developments with interest in view of the above. Given that the terms, conditions and timescale are still under discussion, Finmeccanica's board of directors has given Mr Guarguaglini a mandate to agree the terms of a deal should a suitable opportunity arise.