
Alenia Aeronautica and Boeing team up in the C-27J programme for the US armed forces

Boeing Integrated Defense Systems to work with Alenia North America Inc. and L3 Communications in the GMAS joint venture

Alenia Aeronautica and L3 Communications have signed a memorandum of understanding with Boeing Integrated Defense Systems, under which the latter will join the Global Military Aircraft Systems (GMAS) joint venture. GMAS was set up in 2005 to put forward the C-27J aircraft for the US Air Force and Army's Joint Cargo Aircraft (JCA) programme.

Boeing will be fully involved in the joint venture, including the development of the special version of the aircraft requested by the US armed forces and, should GMAS be selected, in the production of the C-27J in the US. The C-27J team includes Alenia North America, Boeing, Dowty, Honeywell, L-3 Communications, Lockheed Martin, Rolls-Royce and two dozen other suppliers from around the USA.

The JCA will replace the Army's current fleet of transport aircraft and will provide the Air Force with a multi-role and interoperable aircraft able to land on semi-paved runways, carry out logistical support missions and sanitary evacuations, transport troops and materials, make air drops and provide backup for humanitarian and civil protection operations.

The C-27J is a next-generation twin-engine plane, of which a total of 32 have already been ordered by the Italian, Greek and Bulgarian air forces. It is the only tactical transport aircraft of this category currently in production for this specific role, and, thanks to its big cargo hold, the only one with a high degree of interoperability with larger transport aircraft.

The C-27J is currently being evaluated in Canada as a replacement for the country's fleet of search and rescue aircraft. The Czech Republic, Slovakia, Finland, Romania and Australia are also considering placing orders. The aircraft was recently presented to NATO in Brussels, in view of the Alliance's potential requirements in future international operations.

As part of GMAS, Boeing Integrated Defense Systems will also be able to aid in the development of special versions of the aircraft that may be requested in future by the US armed forces.