FINMECCANICA

Piazza Monte Grappa, 4
00195 Rome - Italy

Press Office
Ph. +39 06 32473313
Fax +39 06 32657170

www.finmeccanica.com
ufficiostampa@finmeccanica.com

PRESS RELEASE

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UK Ministry of Defence and AgustaWestland sign GBP 1 billion (EUR 1.4 billion) order for 70 new Future Lynx helicopters and long-term partnership agreement for future helicopter programmes

The UK Ministry of Defence today signed an agreement worth GBP 1 billion (EUR 1.4 billion) with Finmeccanica company AgustaWestland for the supply of 70 Future Lynx helicopters to the British armed forces. The first contract, for the development phase, is worth GBP 380 million (EUR 555 million).

The order, which will see 30 helicopters delivered to the Royal Navy and 40 to the army from 2011, is part of the Strategic Partnering agreement between the MoD and AgustaWestland, and fulfils one of the main requirements outlined by the Defence Industrial Strategy of the British government in the helicopter sector.

Within the long-term partnership agreement, the MoD will work closely with AgustaWestland on helicopter programmes for the British armed forces. Together with the contract for the Future Lynx, the agreement will guarantee that the engineering and systems expertise necessary to meet UK defence requirements is maintained at the AgustaWestland plant in Yeovil, thereby ensuring continued support to the British armed forces.

Finmeccanica chairman and CEO Pier Francesco Guarguaglini commented that: “the agreement with the UK government illustrates the competitiveness of AgustaWestland’s products and the leading role that Finmeccanica plays in British industry; it also further confirms how well the group is able to compete at international level”.

The Future Lynx will replace the Lynx helicopters currently in service, and will guarantee much higher levels of performance: it is a medium twin-engined six-tonne helicopter specifically designed for multi-role sea and land missions. It benefits from some of the solutions already tested for the Super Lynx 300 currently in production.

The main feature of the Future Lynx is its capacity to fully integrate data and information from the advanced sensors and communications equipment with which it is equipped. All the data are shown on four large LCD screens that may be reconfigured in flight, thereby facilitating the execution of the mission and improving the operational efficiency of the crew. The Future Lynx will be equipped with powerful LHTEC CTS800 engines, which provide excellent performances at the maximum take-off weight, even in temperatures of over 50°C.