

Bangalore, 7 February 2007

Finmeccanica at Aero India 2007 exhibition: increasing long term partnership with the Indian aerospace and defence industry

From 7 to 11 February, Finmeccanica is exhibiting at the Aero India 2007 in Bangalore, through its companies AgustaWestland, Alenia Aeronautica, SELEX Communications and SELEX Sistemi Integrati.

Over the years, Italy and India have developed a strong industrial partnership that extends to the defence and security sectors and have worked together in numerous successful programmes, including helicopters, radar systems, communications systems, naval systems, naval guns and light torpedoes.

For Finmeccanica and its companies, India is not only an important market, but mainly a potential partner. With a strong presence in India for many years, meeting future challenges for Finmeccanica will involve increasing that presence through collaboration with local companies. A number of partners have already been identified, and investments, joint programs and shared production facilities are now being evaluated.

Relevant opportunities in the aeronautics might come from the supply of ATR72 and ATR42 twin-engine aircraft in ASW (anti-submarine warfare) and Maritime Patrol versions offered by **Alenia Aeronautica** to efficiently perform Anti Submarine, Anti Ship, SAR and EEZ patrol roles. By choosing this solution, India could also benefit from the vast success that ATR consortium is enjoying in the country, with dozens of twin-engine regional passenger aircraft in service or ordered by leading airlines (including Jet Airways, Air Deccan, Air Alliance and Kingfisher) and from the training and technical support centres that are being established in the country.

AgustaWestland is currently updating – in close cooperation with HAL - Indian Navy's Sea King helicopter fleet and is bidding for the supply of new medium-ton helicopters for the Navy and VVIP helicopters for the Armed Forces. The ideal candidate for this latter programme could be the EH101, given not only its recent success on the international market but also the additional interest that might arise from the Indian Navy and Air Force.

The modernization programme for the Indian Air Force bases could be extremely attractive for Finmeccanica, since it might involve expertise from various companies such as **SELEX Communications** for the communication systems and **SELEX Sistemi Integrati** with its **SELEX Sistemi Integrati Inc.** for sensors and overall integration activities.

The military communication sector could be attractive as well, given SELEX Communications long-lasting cooperation with HAL on both avionic and naval communication systems.

SELEX Sistemi Integrati has been supplying air traffic control radar systems to India for years: in cooperation with Bharat Electronics the company is currently delivering 20 air traffic control radar systems (composed of ATCR 33S primary radar and SIR-S secondary radar) for Indian military airports, with an option for further 17 and is bidding for a new contract for an initial 15 3D low-level transportable radar systems (LLTR).

Additional areas of co-operation could include the new generation of the 127Light Weight gun (**OTO Melara** already produces in India with Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd the 76mm gun), or the updated versions of **WASS** anti torpedoes system launchers already produced in partnership with Bharat Dynamics Ltd. WASS is active in the underwater systems field in India since 1978 with the light torpedo A244/S in service with the Indian Navy for helicopter and ship based operation. **Galileo Avionica**, also active in the avionics and UAV business, is delivering - in cooperation with HAL - 20 Precision Approach Radar systems (PAR), with an option for further 20.

Space could be a new field for common activities, given the interest that India is showing in the Galileo satellite constellation and the strong involvement of two Finmeccanica companies in this programme: **Alcatel Alenia Space** and **Telespazio**.

Finmeccanica is Italy's number one high-tech group and leader in research and development, and control most of the country's aerospace and defence industry. In addition the group also has strong expertise and a sound market position in the sector of rail transport with **Ansaldo STS**, that operates in Bangalore through its subsidiary Union Switch & Signal, and the energy sector with **Ansaldo Energia**.