

Rome, 29 November 2007

AgustaWestland awarded 660 million Euro contract for support of UK Sea King helicopters

AgustaWestland, a Finmeccanica company, has been awarded the first contract of Phase II of the Sea King Integrated Operational Support (SKIOS) programme. The value of the contract for the first five years is 660 million Euro (£472 million).

SKIOS Phase II introduces payment by the flying hour arrangements for UK MoD's fleet of Sea King helicopters of almost 100 aircraft comprising the Royal Air Force's Mk.3 and Mk.3A SAR aircraft and the Royal Navy's Mk.4 and Mk.6CR amphibious support aircraft, Mk.5 SAR aircraft. SKIOS Phase II also includes support for Search and Rescue fleet of UK Armed Forces. The programme will enhance relevant savings on support activities and will improve the efficiency of the helicopters of the Royal Air Force and the Royal Navy.

Pier Francesco Guarguaglini, Finmeccanica Chairman and CEO, said: "Today's agreement between AgustaWestland and the Ministry of Defence provides further proof that the UK, Finmeccanica's second home market, continues to go from strength to strength in terms of its contribution to our growth strategy. It also testifies to the excellent relations our Group enjoys with the UK Government. Indeed, this success sees AgustaWestland leading the field in the delivery of through life support services to the MoD".

Integrated Operational Support is the heart of the strategic partnership between AgustaWestland and the UK MoD. In April 2005 AgustaWestland was awarded the first IOS contract for the Sea King fleet for the Royal Armed Forces. Valued at 438 million Euro (£300 million), the IOS contract achieved the expected savings with no influence on the aircraft availability. AgustaWestland is currently talking with the UK MoD for further IOS and Through Life Capability Management programmes.