

Rome, 28 September 2007

**GAO confirms victory of Finmeccanica's C-27J USA aircraft; EADS protest rejected**

The US Government Accountability Office (GAO) confirmed yesterday that the C-27J is the best choice to fulfil the tactical transport requirement of the US Air Force and US Army.

Their decision confirms that the C-27J is the best aircraft both in terms of performances and of economy and financial offer. The GAO denied the protest filed by Raytheon Company, Space and Airborne Systems, that offered the EADS CASA C.295 challenging the contract awarded by the Pentagon to L-3 Communications Integrated Systems, as prime contractor and a team including Alenia North America, an Alenia Aeronautica company and Boeing, to provide 78 units of the C-27J Joint Cargo Aircraft to the US armed forces.

The C-27J has been already ordered by the Hellenic, Italian, Bulgarian, Lithuanian Air Forces and by US.Army and US.Air Force for a total 110 aircraft. Moreover, the C-27J has been recently selected by Romania (7 aircraft).

"The confirmation of our victory in the American contest is the clearest testimony to date of the excellence of the C-27J, the only aircraft of its class to respond perfectly to the modern transport requirements of the world's air forces," said Pier Francesco Gauguaglini, Chairman and CEO of Finmeccanica. "The C-27J is a prime example of Finmeccanica's strategic vision for growth in global markets through the development of strategic partnerships with the principal international players in the sector."

The C-27J is the only true medium military aircraft available on the market, offering superior and cost effective performances in speed, range, payload, load compartment volume and cross section, combined with the system reliability and considerable commonality of equipment.

The C-27J is interoperable and interchangeable with heavier military airlifter like the C-130 in service with many NATO air forces. The C-27J is equipped with a modern and efficient propulsion system (Rolls Royce AE2100-D2) and digital avionics thus guaranteeing to the operators of the aircraft the highest cost-effectiveness together with the maximum mission flexibility.

The avionics system architecture is completely redundant, developed with autonomous support concept and providing an unmatched accurate, direct, day-night, all weather mission accomplishment with a low flight crew workload. The C-27J is the only medium tactical airlifter that has the same loading system and capability of the C-130 in carrying NATO standard 463L HCU-6/E pallets, each loaded up to 4,700 kg and to a height of 83 inches (2.2 meters).

The C-27J is designed, developed and tested as a military aircraft using military standards to produce a robust, safe and performing aircraft, and has obtained Military Qualification Certificate. At the same time the C-27J is airworthy to civil standards, as witnessed by its certification from the Civil Aviation Authority.