

Rome, 29 November 2007

Fulbright – Finmeccanica Scholarship is launched

Finmeccanica is sponsoring a scholarship award together with the prestigious Fulbright Commission aimed at graduates in science and technology. The official announcement will be made today at Villa Taverna, the Rome residence of the US Ambassador, at a ceremony to launch the celebrations for the Fulbright Program's 60th anniversary in Italy. The winner will be given the opportunity to attend a two-year Master's course at a university in the United States, with all expenses paid. The scholarship will be awarded each year to study at one of a number of universities selected by the candidate and proposed by the Institute of International Education.

The competition is open to graduates holding a degree in a science subject (physics, mathematics, computer science, electronics, engineering, business engineering, etc.) attained within the three years preceding the competition closing date, in addition to an English language *TOEFL* certificate. The minimum score required for the *Test of English As a Foreign Language* is 100 for the Internet-based version, 250 for the computer-based version and 600 for the paper-based version. The deadline for submission of applications is 5 May 2008.

The initiative is part of the new Fulbright scheme and coincides with the 60th anniversary of both the foundation of Finmeccanica and the birth of the Italian Fulbright Program. Finanziaria Meccanica was in fact established as a company in 1948 by the Institute for Industrial Reconstruction to manage equity investments in the mechanical engineering and shipyard industry. The Fulbright Program was instead launched in 1946 in the United States, and in 1948 Italy decided to meet this challenge by establishing the Commission for Cultural Exchange between Italy and the United States.

The Fulbright Program was the brainchild of Arkansas Democrat Senator J. William Fulbright. Its aim was to promote the exchange of ideas, culture and history between American citizens and the citizens of other nations. Since 1948, over 7,000 Italian scholarship holders have taken part in intensive and prestigious study, research and teaching programs, many of whom today hold distinguished academic or professional positions on both sides of the Atlantic. A past winner of the Fulbright scholarship and a current member of the Commission is the Chairman and CEO, Pier Francesco Guarguaglini.

For information on the complete Fulbright scholarship program please visit the website www.fulbright.it

