

Rome, 30 March 2007

Alenia Aeronautica signs EUR 292 million contract for new Eurofighter operating functions**The programme – worth a total of EUR 1.2 billion – will also involve Finmeccanica group companies Selex S&AS, Galileo Avionica and Selex Communications**

The Eurofighter consortium and NETMA, the intergovernmental agency that manages the programme for the partner countries, have signed a EUR 1,205 million agreement in Munich in the name and on behalf of Alenia Aeronautica, EADS, BAE Systems and EADS-CASA, and the armed forces of Italy, Germany, the UK and Spain. The agreement covers the development and integration of additional operating functions for Tranche 2 Eurofighters, which will enhance the aircraft's multi-role capabilities.

For Alenia Aeronautica, which heads up Italian involvement in the programme and leads the consortium in the areas of development and integration of defence and navigation systems, the agreement is worth over EUR 292 million and is expected to provide a major boost for other Finmeccanica group companies (Selex S&AS, Galileo Avionica, Selex Communications), which in subsequent phases will be involved in the development and further improvement of many features of the on-board systems and equipment.

The agreement, which will be implemented over the next five years, provides for the integration on board Tranche 2 Eurofighters of new functions aimed at further improving the aircraft's air defence operating capabilities and significantly upgrading its tactical air support role. These new functions will develop the aircraft's capabilities to the full, representing an unparalleled achievement: the Typhoon will be able to carry out air defence and tactical support operations on the same mission, a characteristic and distinctive feature of this aircraft.

In its final configuration, as envisaged by the agreement, the Typhoon will therefore be able to satisfy the most complex requirements of the armed forces of the consortium's four member countries, and will have excellent international sales potential, especially given its competitive cost/efficiency ratio.

The second tranche of the Eurofighter will see the production of 236 aircraft: 68 for Germany, 46 for Italy (3 twin-seater and 43 single-seater aircraft), 89 for the UK and 33 for Spain. Deliveries to the four partner countries are expected for the beginning of 2008.

Deliveries of first-tranche aircraft are now under way; more than 100 have already been delivered.

In Italy, the Eurofighter programme provides employment (directly, indirectly and via services) for some 24,000 people annually, located evenly between the north and central/southern areas of the country.

In total, 620 Eurofighter aircraft have been ordered by the four partner countries. In addition, the Austrian air force ordered 18 Eurofighters in June 2003 (first deliveries scheduled for 2007), and the Typhoon was recently selected by the Saudi air force, with a contract expected to be signed by the end of the year. Furthermore, the Typhoon is currently under consideration by Greece, Turkey, Denmark, Japan, Norway, Switzerland and India.