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Elsag Datamat acquires total control of the US company Reles

Elsag Datamat, a Finmeccanica company operating in the fields of automation, security, defence and information technology, has completed the acquisition of 100% of the US company Remington Elsag Law Enforcement Systems (Reles). The operation was carried out via Elsag Datamat's subsidiary Elsag Inc. and strengthens the company's presence on the global security market.

Reles was created in 2004 as a 50-50 joint venture between Remington Arms Company Inc. and Elsag Inc., a US-incorporated company owned 100% by Elsag, today Elsag Datamat, to sell car number plate readers to Police and Government Forces in the US. In only a short time, these products have been adopted by more than 240 Police Departments in 21 States, including the New York State Police, the Atlanta Police Department, the Colorado State Patrol and the Washington Country Sheriff's Office. Following on from this success, in 2007 Reles was awarded important contracts in the field of Homeland Security, in partnership with big US companies operating in this sector.

Pier Francesco Guarguaglini, Chairman and CEO of Finmeccanica, said: "The acquisition of 100% of Reles highlights the Group's intention to continue with its international expansion in the strategic and fast-growing security market. After the successes achieved in Italy with our number plate reading systems for the Italian Police Forces, we now plan to offer Elsag Datamat's entire portfolio of security products also on the US market".

Elsag Datamat has ploughed its huge range of technological expertise into the optical characters recognition system, which enables to read car number plates in every country in the world, and represents a valuable tool in the area of security and territorial control. According to the FBI, some 70% of crimes committed in the US involve the use of a car.