

Turin, 29 February 2008

## **Finmeccanica cements its aeronautical operations in Piedmont, as it presents the Corso Marche project in partnership with the Turin Municipal Authority**

In confirmation of its industrial expansion strategy in Piedmont, Finmeccanica is to transfer the Turin-based operations of Alenia Aeronautica from Corso Marche to Caselle. In addition, the Group has presented a project, in partnership with Turin's Municipal Authority, for the regeneration of the Corso Marche area, where Thales Alenia Space (a joint venture between Thales and Finmeccanica) will continue to operate. This initiative bears witness to the technological capabilities that exist in the Turin area, and confirms the strength of Finmeccanica's presence in Piedmont.

Under the plan, Alenia Aeronautica's project design activities will move from Corso Marche to the production, integration, engineering and flight test site of Caselle, where new premises will be built and existing ones extended. The transfer is part of Finmeccanica's drive to complete the unification of its processes: Caselle will therefore act as an integrated technology and manufacturing hub, via which Alenia Aeronautica plans to strengthen and optimise its industrial facilities in Piedmont. The aim is to create ever closer integration and synergies, leading to continuity between simulators and aircraft, designers and pilots.

At the same time, the empty site in Corso Marche will be redeveloped and regenerated in keeping with the will to deindustrialise urban areas. The new district, backed by Finmeccanica with the support of the firm of architects Studio Amati, is the result of an innovative industrial and urban scheme. It will cover an area of approximately 250,000 sqm and represent an original architectural concept: a "dual urban area" with a technology and industrial hub, a university and a residential and commercial district, all enhanced by large pedestrian areas and green spaces. Designed as a place for people to meet, the new district will contain multi-purpose buildings, and represents an exceptional opportunity for Turin. The "aerospace district", covering around 25,000 sqm, will be home to other aerospace companies that will work in synergy with Thales Alenia Space, which is remaining at its facility in Corso Marche.

Pier Francesco Guarguaglini, Chairman and CEO of Finmeccanica, said: "This project further cements Finmeccanica's industrial operations in Piedmont and confirms our intention to create a dialogue and establish mutually beneficial relationships with the cities, the regions and the communities that play host to our facilities. The Corso Marche project also shows how the Group's drive for technological innovation is in perfect keeping with tradition and with Finmeccanica's historical presence in Turin and the surrounding area. The renovation of our company premises, which is necessary to allow us to compete internationally, will enable the old industrial districts to be redeveloped, revalued and 'returned' to the city".

The transfer of Alenia Aeronautica's operations from Corso Marche to Caselle should be complete by 2010, while the redeveloped Corso Marche area is expected to be ready by 2015-2016.