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**Finmeccanica at the Japan International Aerospace Exhibition 2008: technology solutions for the Japanese market**

Finmeccanica, through its companies AgustaWestland, Alenia Aeronautica and the joint venture Thales Alenia Space (67% Thales and 33% Finmeccanica), will be for the first time at the Japan International Aerospace Exhibition in Tokyo from 1 to 5 October 2008, presenting its leading-edge technology solutions. Over the years, the exhibition has taken on an increasingly important role, and is today one of the most important events in the Asian aerospace and defence calendar.

Japan is a highly attractive market for Finmeccanica, which plans to consolidate its presence in the country via industrial partnerships with local companies. The Group has already made excellent progress in this direction thanks to its activities within the “IJBG (Italy-Japan Business Group)” and the “ITALY in JAPAN 2009” event, that is the natural continuation of “PRIMAVERA ITALIANA” of 2007, that have helped raise the image of Italy in Japan and strengthen political, institutional and business relationships between the two countries.

Finmeccanica is present in Japan through an AgustaWestland office in Tokyo and is active in the country since the 1970s via Oto Melara. Finmeccanica companies work with several General Trading Companies and with Japan’s biggest industrial groups.

In the helicopters field, Finmeccanica is present through AgustaWestland with helicopters for military, government and commercial use. Kawasaki Heavy Industries produces, under licence, the AW101 that has received 15 orders, 14 of which are for the Japan Maritime Self-Defence Force, and one is for the Tokyo Metropolitan Police. The Japan Coast Guard has ordered five AW139 as part of a wider requirement for 24 helicopters, while two AW139 have been purchased by the Tokyo Metropolitan Police. The AW109 Power has proved highly successful for law enforcement applications, with 21 orders received to date from Japan’s National Police Agency. In addition, several orders for AW119 Ke, A109 and AW109 Power and Grand helicopters have been received for VIP/corporate transport missions and for electronic news gathering.

In the aeronautics field, Alenia Aeronautica cooperates with the UK company BAE Systems in the Eurofighter Typhoon campaign, that is one of the candidate for the renewal of the Japan Air Self-Defence Force’s air defence fleet. At the exhibition, Alenia Aeronautica will also present its C-27J tactical transport aircraft, winner of the Joint Cargo Aircraft programme for the US Air Force and Army. The aircraft has already been ordered by Italy, Greece, Bulgaria, Lithuania and Romania, and recently received its first order from a non-NATO country. All in all, 121 aircraft have been sold. Alenia Aeronautica also collaborates with Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, Fuji Heavy Industries and Kawasaki Heavy Industries on the B787 programme. ATR (a 50-50 joint venture between Alenia Aeronautica and EADS) is presenting its ATR72 600, the next-generation regional turboprop aircraft, while Alenia Aermacchi will be exhibiting its M-346 Advanced Lead-in fighter trainer aircraft, which is popular with several Air Forces around the world and has already been selected by the Italian Air Force as an advanced trainer for pilots who will be flying the next generation of aircraft.

In the area of defence systems, there are further opportunities for Oto Melara, which produces naval guns, already ordered by the Japan Maritime Self-Defence Force, and turrets for naval and land programmes. In the space sector, Finmeccanica is also interested in offering technology solutions in the Earth Observation field, as well as value-added services.

Another important opportunity lies in the energy sector, where Finmeccanica, via its company Ansaldo Energia, is in talks with many of Japan's major energy companies about possible partnerships.

Finmeccanica is Italy's leading manufacturer in the high technology sector and ranks among the top ten global players in Aerospace, Defence and Security. The Group's business is based on the three strategic pillars of Helicopters, Aeronautics and Defence and Security Electronics, which generate some 65% of revenues and account for around 70% of the workforce. Finmeccanica is Europe's leading defence systems company, and enjoys a strong presence in the space sector where, as part of the Space Alliance, has the leadership in satellite services. It also has substantial expertise and a consolidated position on the global transport and energy markets, creating benchmarks for excellence all over the world. In 2007, Finmeccanica posted revenues for 13.4 billion Euro. The Group has more than 60,000 employees, of whom around 30% are located outside Italy. Finmeccanica has its headquarters in Italy, with other important production sites also in the UK, with a staff of 10,000, France with around 3,500 and the US with over 2,000.