

Rome, 11 November 2009

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**Italian Ministry for Education, Universities and Scientific Research and Finmeccanica signed a Memorandum of Understanding for the new Reform Project regarding Higher Technical Institutes**

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The Italian Minister for Education, Universities and Scientific Research (MIUR), Hon. Mariastella Gelmini, and the Chairman and CEO of Finmeccanica, Pier Francesco Guarguaglini, have signed today in Rome a Memorandum of Understanding to start trialling the new Reform Project regarding Higher Technical Institutes (HTI), entitled "Higher Technical for Finmeccanica".

Under the agreement, Finmeccanica, through its Companies present on the territory, will contribute to the constitution of Foundations that will be established in Piedmont, Tuscany, Campania and Puglia.

Finmeccanica Group Companies will contribute in the following areas: Governance, by identifying representatives on the Governing Council and the Scientific Committee of the Foundations; Asset, with internal staff who can provide teaching (for 50% of the curriculum hours) and be available to arrange visits to Finmeccanica companies and the use of Group resources (e.g. laboratories, machinery); Placements, selecting the most deserving students to work at Finmeccanica Company.

The bodies funding the trial will be MIUR, the Regional Authorities and, to a partial extent, the Ministry of Economic Development.

The project is fully in line with the strategies of the Finmeccanica Group, which has always focused on enhancing the skills of its employees through training and professional development, in the belief that building technical expertise and disseminating a knowledge culture are the key to finding the right response to the current challenges.

"This agreement helps to fulfil an objective that the Ministry has been determinedly pursuing: to strengthen the basic skills instilled by the academic system in order to appropriately prepare young people for the challenges of the world of work", commented Mariastella Gelmini, the Minister for Education, Universities and Scientific Research.

"The spirit of the project represents not only a concrete opportunity to strengthen a virtuous relationship between the industry and the education – Pier Francesco Guarguaglini, Chairman and CEO of Finmeccanica commented - but also reflects the values and characteristics of our Group devoted to the ongoing technological innovation, the pursuit of excellence, the promotion of merit and the work ethic; never forgetting the focus on the area, since Finmeccanica is a truly international Group but never loses sight of the features of the areas in which it works".