

Rome, 24 July 2009

EIB lends Finmeccanica EUR 500 million for investments in southern Italy

The European Investment Bank (EIB) and Finmeccanica SpA signed a EUR 500 million loan agreement in Rome today, which is to fund investments that are part of the Italian aerospace group's multi-year business plan. The loan is destined for Alenia Aeronautica SpA (100%-owned by Finmeccanica) and will be used for the production and development of technologically innovative aeronautical components. Dario Scannapieco, the EIB's vice-president responsible for operations in Italy, Malta and the Western Balkans, and Alessandro Pansa, Finmeccanica's Co-Chief Operating Officer, were present at the signing.

This is the EIB's first loan to Finmeccanica in many years. The financing was granted within the background of the difficult economic situation, and its aim is to support Finmeccanica's important role in industry in southern Italy. It meets two of the EIB's main criteria: the channelling of resources to expand production facilities in the regions of Campania (Pomigliano d'Arco) and Puglia (Foggia and Grottaglie), Italian regions which are both in an EU convergence region, and the financing of Research & Development activities. The innovative aeronautical components which will be produced meet the requirements of lighter weight and reduced fuel consumption, with consequent reduced emissions of pollutants – another of the EIB's criteria for funding European projects.

"With this transaction we confirm the EIB's support for the Italian manufacturing sector and for the Finmeccanica group's investment in the most advanced technology", said Dario Scannapieco. "Moreover, the funding will finance research and production in factories in southern Italy, with positive effects on employment in regions that could suffer more acutely in the current crisis."

"The EIB's financing", commented Pier Francesco Guarguaglini, Finmeccanica's Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, "will be used to develop significant Research & Development and production initiatives in certain areas of southern Italy, where Finmeccanica has a consolidated presence, with technologically advanced production facilities and highly qualified staff who are working on projects that are strategically important for the Group. We are convinced that, thanks to these investments, we will be able to maintain and increase the level of excellence necessary to be competitive at international level".

Notes

EIB

The European Investment Bank supports the European Union's political and strategic goals by granting long-term loans and supporting financially viable projects. The EIB's shareholders are the EU's 27 member states. Italy is one of the bank's four main shareholders, together with the UK, Germany, and France – each holds 16.2% of the bank's share capital. As of the end of 2008, the bank had granted EUR 355 billion in loans, of which EUR 45 billion went to Italy.

Finmeccanica

Finmeccanica plays a leading role in the global aerospace and defence industry, and has a presence in major international sector programmes through its Group companies and thanks to well-established partnerships in Europe and the US. A leader in the design and manufacture of helicopters, defence and security electronics, civil and military aircraft, aerostructures, satellites, space infrastructure and defence systems, and with significant manufacturing assets and competencies in the transport and energy sectors,

Finmeccanica is Italy's leading high-tech company. It is listed on the Milan stock market and operates via a number of group companies and joint ventures. The Group has around 73,000 employees, with more than 12,600 working in the USA, about 10,100 in the UK and over 3,600 in France. As part of its drive to maintain and build on its technological excellence, Finmeccanica spends 12% of its revenues on research and development.

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