



Visit by President Napolitano to Selex Sistemi Integrati

Welcome

Pier Francesco Guarguaglini

Chairman and CEO, Finmeccanica

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Mr President,

It is both a pleasure and a great honour to have you here today to open Selex Sistemi Integrati's Centre of Excellence for Large Systems.

This Centre is at the heart of the company whose role within Finmeccanica is to integrate systems.

This Centre can be said to bring together all the activities of the Group's companies, which are constantly enhancing their ability to offer their clients, both in Italy and abroad, turnkey solutions in a wide variety of fields: ranging from defence to security, from air and sea traffic control to rail transport, from sensitive infrastructures to power plants.

The common denominator uniting all these diverse activities is state-of-the-art technology.

As you will be aware, what has now come to be informally known as the Tiburtina Valley is home not only to Selex Sistemi Integrati, but also to many other Finmeccanica companies, which together are the inheritors of a tradition rooted in state-of-the-art technology that originated at Selenia; indeed, I myself, like many of the managers and engineers still working for Finmeccanica, started my working life within the Group at Selenia.

To be sure, the world and our companies were very different back then; we were working essentially under licence, there was less technological development going on, and the market was largely domestic. Today, we are one of the European companies that invests most heavily in research, we have a presence in the global market and are exporting technology. It was here that the conditions were created that made this process possible, thanks to all the people who, over the decades, worked here with such commitment and the capacity and will to succeed.

This tradition is more alive now than ever: the greatest challenge we face is to pass on to future generations the wealth of knowledge and experience accumulated over the years.

Responding to this challenge is particularly demanding today, at a time when the world is enduring difficulties brought on by the economic and financial crisis. Despite the growing evidence of recovery, this crisis cannot be said to be over. In particular, its effects on the economy and on people's lives will be felt for some considerable time yet.

There is no denying the heavy obligation on Finmeccanica to make a substantial contribution to the nation's recovery.

And I do believe that opening this Centre of Excellence is the best response we can give to the situation, for it testifies to something of which the Finmeccanica Group's management is utterly convinced: that this crisis can be overcome by investing in technology and in research in order to become ever more competitive and to make ourselves ready to seize all the opportunities with which the future will present us.

It is for that reason, Mr President, that I wish, on behalf of the Group as a whole, to thank you for your constant reminders of the need for ever more consistent investment in innovation.

Be assured, Mr President, that you will always find Finmeccanica a willing listener and ready to follow you down that road. **Thank you.**