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Finmeccanica wins tender in USA for C-27J transport aircraft in partnership with L-3 and Boeing

USD 2.04 billion contract for 78 aircraft – USD 6 billion programme

Finmeccanica has won an important new order in the US through Alenia North America (an Alenia Aeronautica subsidiary), in partnership with L-3 and Boeing. The C-27J - designed, developed and manufactured by Alenia Aeronautica - has been selected by the US Army and Air Force as the new tactical transport aircraft for the Joint Cargo Aircraft (JCA) programme.

The C-27J Team was awarded an initial contract estimated at USD 2.04 billion for the supply of 78 C-27J tactical transport aircraft. The US Armed Forces' plan is to purchase 145 aircraft (75 for the Army and 70 for the Air Force), rising to a total of 207 units over the next ten years, worth an estimated USD 6 billion.

The C-27J - supplied in the US by the C-27J team, headed by L-3 Integrated Systems, with Alenia North America, Boeing Integrated Defense Systems and Global Military Aircraft Systems (GMAS, a company owned 51% by Alenia Aeronautica and 49% by L-3) - was selected over the EADS-CASA C295 as it is the only aircraft in its category that meets the US operational requirements for tactical transport.

The JCA is a joint programme run by the US Army and Air Force for a tactical transport aircraft. As a high-performance multi-purpose aircraft with capabilities of independent operation, effectiveness and operating efficiency, the C-27J – equipped with Rolls Royce AE2100 engines - is the ideal solution to this requirement.

To date, 32 C-27J aircraft have been ordered: 12 by the Italian Air Force, 12 (plus an option on three) by the Greek Air Force, five by the Bulgarian Air Force and three by the Lithuanian Air Force. Romania also selected seven aircraft. Bids to supply the C-27J are also under way in the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Slovenia, and the aircraft is currently being evaluated in Australia, Canada and some Middle Eastern countries. The C-27J is produced in the Alenia Aeronautica plants of Pomigliano, near Naples, and Turin-Caselle.

The selection of the C-27J is another success notched up by Finmeccanica companies on the US market. These include helicopters for the presidential fleet and the achievements of AgustaWestland's line of civil helicopters, manufactured at its Philadelphia plant. In addition, Alenia Aeronautica and US partner Vought manufacture 26% of the structure of the Boeing 787 Dreamliner commercial aeroplane and Elsag produces the licence plate reading system. Finmeccanica companies AgustaWestland, OTO Melara, Elsag, Selex Sistemi Integrati, MBDA, Thales Alenia Space, Telespazio, AnsaldoBreda and Ansaldo STS all have a presence in the US, employing around 1,600 people in total.

Chairman and CEO of Finmeccanica, **Pier Francesco Guarguaglini**, said: "The success of the C-27J, achieved with excellent US partners, such as L-3 and Boeing, shows how the decision to focus on the US, the market with the biggest defence budget in the world, is paying dividends. Finmeccanica's international growth strategy, launched in 2002 and implemented through a mix of acquisitions and organic growth, has proved to be the right solution for increasing our competitiveness, and lays the foundations for lasting development to be achieved over the next few years. Following the order for the US101, the helicopter for the US presidential fleet, the tender won by the C-27J represents recognition of the excellence of the products manufactured by Finmeccanica, an Italian Group that can compete with significant results on international markets. This is a team success, not only for the international partnership at its heart, but also for the outstanding contribution of the entire Finmeccanica team and particularly Alenia Aeronautica - management, executives, engineers, technicians and manual workers - that has been working on this project for many years".

"Winning the C-27J tender - added Finmeccanica's Chief Operating Officer and Alenia Aeronautica's Chairman, **Giorgio Zappa** - is the result of a strategic vision, in which Alenia Aeronautica has invested huge resources and project capacity and is strong confirmation of Finmeccanica's aeronautical expertise, which has also been endorsed by its participation in the Airbus programme and the B787 project, the biggest success in the history of commercial aviation. In a period of widespread international unrest, the C-27J will enable the US and all countries equipped with this aircraft to meet the new operational requirements of the Armed Forces. The Group has achieved significant results in the US and also has numerous opportunities in other sectors with AgustaWestland and the Selex companies, Elsag, OTO Melara, AnsaldoBreda and Ansaldo STS. This success is another achievement in Finmeccanica's mission to measure itself by the requirements of a demanding client such as the Pentagon".