

Le Bourget, 17 June 2009

Finmeccanica presents its Strategic Situation Centre at the Paris Air Show

At the 48th International Air Show at Le Bourget, Paris, the Finmeccanica stand was home to the Group's Strategic Situation Centre, a control room that uses the Group's most advanced products and systems for the integrated management of safety and security issues that are now considered of primary importance: terrorism, natural disasters, and security for big cities, critical infrastructure and national borders.

The Strategic Situation Centre groups together a variety of products and systems – sensors, platforms, complex subsystems and large systems – made by Finmeccanica, the only aerospace and defence player that can offer integrated solutions at all levels.

Pier Francesco Guarguaglini, Chairman and CEO of Finmeccanica, said: "The world is becoming increasingly interconnected and, consequently, ever more complex. Technological progress brings us new, interrelated options that are gradually making individual products less important and integrated solutions and systems more attractive. At the same time, new security requirements are reshaping our approach to projects: these days it is no longer possible to design critical infrastructure without taking security into account".

The Strategic Situation Centre is focused on five main areas:

Critical infrastructure protection: national security means guaranteeing the integrity of a country's airspace, territorial waters, national borders and critical infrastructure (such as energy sources or transport systems). This involves providing complete cover of the areas in question using sensors on land, at sea and in the air, which enable intervention by interceptor aircraft, military ships and ground forces capable of reacting to any incursion or emergency.

Large events management: during urban emergencies, the protection of individuals is key. It is therefore crucial to safeguard communications and at the same time ensure that people can be transported to safety. Command systems and ground units must therefore be able to count on a rapid, flexible and reliable response.

Counter insurgency and sustainable security: a multitude of possible critical situations requires a range of options and solutions, to allow direct, rapid and non-invasive intervention and ensure maximum effectiveness. In this scenario, it is of fundamental importance to have complete and secure information, and this can only be obtained through highly advanced sensors and detection systems.

Maritime domain awareness: the ability to monitor maritime borders is crucial in maintaining national security. To this end, sensors must provide continuous cover of all areas at all times, and must be able to identify potential multiple threats, in order to provide proportionate and appropriate responses.

Managing a multiple threat: the first requirement when tackling a crisis is to attain an appropriate level of situation awareness, in order to provide decision-making bodies with an overall operational vision and all the facts necessary to assess the various courses of action, and thus ensure that all the operations teams provide a coherent and co-ordinated response.

Finmeccanica plays a leading role in the global aerospace and defence industry, and participates in some of the sector's biggest international programmes through its group companies and well-established alliances with European and USA partners. A leader in the design and manufacture of helicopters, defence and security electronics, civil and military aircraft, aerostructures, satellites, space infrastructure and defence systems, Finmeccanica is Italy's leading high-tech company. It also boasts significant manufacturing assets and skills in the transport and energy sectors; it is listed on the Milan stock market and operates via a number of group companies and joint ventures. It has over 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.

The Strategic Situation Centre at the Paris Air Show, linked remotely with three Control Rooms located in Rome, London and Washington DC - the capitals of the countries which Finmeccanica considers as its domestic markets - shows how it is possible to give a co-ordinated and effective response to security requirements in the real world, thanks to the wide-ranging capabilities of the Group's companies.

The Finmeccanica Group can make a contribution to this complex scenario through all its companies. SELEX Sistemi Integrati designs architecture for large systems, thanks to its capabilities in systems integration, simulation, engineering, software design and the production of high-tech components and systems; Alenia Aeronautica, its subsidiary Alenia Aermacchi and ATR consortium, together with AgustaWestland and OTO Melara produce platforms, especially for rescue aircraft, thanks to a highly eclectic and functional range of aircraft; sensors are provided by SELEX Galileo, SELEX Sistemi Integrati, DRS Technologies and EltagDatamat; SELEX Communications is responsible for telecommunications; satellite services and platforms are provided by Telespazio (67% Finmeccanica; 33% Thales) and Thales Alenia Space (67% Thales; 33% Finmeccanica). It's a team effort that involves all Finmeccanica Group companies operating in the sectors of Aerospace and Defence.