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Alenia Aeronautica and MAS Aerospace Engineering seal joint venture agreement for turboprop MRO

Alenia Aeronautica, a Finmeccanica company, and MAS Aerospace Engineering (MAE), a subsidiary of Malaysia Airlines, sealed an agreement to create a joint venture company for the provision of MRO (Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul) services for turboprop commercial aircraft.

Alenia Aeronautica's CEO, Giovanni Bertolone, and MAE's Managing Director, Mohd Roslan Ismail sealed the agreement at the 48th Le Bourget Air Show in Paris.

The new company, MAS-Alenia Aeronautica Aerospace Engineering (MAAE) is 51% owned by MAE and 49% by Alenia Aeronautica. The company's headquarters will be in Malaysia.

The JV agreement is related to the earlier order of 20 ATR 72-500s, plus an option of seven by Firefly and MASwings. These two airlines are wholly owned by Malaysia Airlines, the national carrier of Malaysia.

MAAE aims to offer MRO services for ATR aircraft within ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) and the Indian sub-continent with plans to offer these services to other countries in the near future.

ATR, the leader for the regional turboprop aircraft, expresses its delight at the establishment of MAAE. ATR is well aware of the opportunities that MAAE is able to offer to the ATR MRO Centre which will soon be established. The ATR MRO Centre will be dedicated to the maintenance of ATR airplanes in Southeast Asia.

Bertolone said: "Over the years, Italy and Malaysia have developed a strong industrial alliance in the field of aerospace, collaborating in several successful programmes such as trainer aircraft, technical support and maintenance services. The sealing of the agreement between Alenia Aeronautica and MAE confirms and strengthens our relationship with Malaysia. It also underlines our ability to seize the opportunities available in the high-technology and innovation sectors in Malaysia".

"We are pleased to partner with MAE which is a highly reputable MRO organisation and this collaboration will enhance our technical expertise", he added.

Roslan said: "We are delighted with this partnership, and look forward to working with Alenia Aeronautica to become a major ATR MRO provider in Asia. The government of Malaysia is also aggressively promoting our Subang base into an aviation hub. This provides us with additional opportunities which will enable us to offer quality services to other airlines at highly competitive prices".

"Together, we can leverage on our expertise to continue providing a high level of safe and secure flight operations while capitalizing on the aircraft market in Asia," he said. "The lack of MRO maintenance for turboprop aircraft in Asia would position this JV company to become a key MRO provider for turboprop. In the second stage, the JV will develop additional business opportunity in the cargo conversions and specialized activities," he added.

About MAS Aerospace Engineering

MAS Aerospace Engineering started as a Malaysia Airlines' Engineering and Maintenance division in 1972 and has over 35 years of experience in the MRO business.

With advanced heavy maintenance facilities and 6 fully equipped hangars at the KL International Airport and its head office in Subang, it manages Malaysia Airlines' aircraft fleet that includes B747-400, B777-200, A330-200/300 and B737-400 aircraft types. It also provides MRO support for the Fokker 50 and Twin Otter aircraft in its subsidiary companies, MASwings and Firefly.

Among the many services provided are A, B, C and D checks on F50, B737 Classic and Next-Generation, B747 series, A330 and B777; engineering services including quality assurance, technical services, engineering planning, production planning, aircraft projects, technical training and major aircraft modification. MAS E&M is a certified Approved Maintenance Organization by the Department of Civil Aviation (Malaysia), Directorate General of Civil Aviation (Indonesia), European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA), and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), among others.

It was recently acknowledged the best Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) centre in Asia Pacific by Frost & Sullivan, Singapore.

About Alenia Aeronautica

Alenia Aeronautica, a Finmeccanica company, is the largest Italian aeronautic player which operates in the design, development and production of commercial and military aircraft, unmanned air vehicles and aerostructures. Through its subsidiaries Alenia Aermacchi and Alenia Aeronavali, Alenia Aeronautica is also active, respectively, in the fields of military trainers; transformation, maintenance and modernisation of commercial and military airplanes. Through the joint ventures ATR, SCAC and Superjet International, Alenia Aeronautica is world leader in the field of regional jets. In 2008 the company has reported revenues of €2,530 millions, orders for €2,720 millions and backlog for €8,281 millions. Alenia Aeronautica's total workforce is of 13,907 resources.

PRESS CONTACTS

Malaysia Airlines

Wai Fong Tan
tanwf@mas.com.my
Mob. +6017 3389075

Alenia Aeronautica

Roberta Acocella
pressoffice@alenia.it
Mob. +39 335 5335262