

Sofia, 13 November, 2007

## **Alenia Aeronautica delivers the first C-27J to the Bulgarian Air Force**

Alenia Aeronautica, a Finmeccanica company, today delivered the first C-27J tactical transport aircraft to the Bulgarian Air Force. This is the first of five C-27Js ordered in 2006 by the Balkan country.

The C-27Js, which will replace the current Bulgarian transport fleet of Antonov An-26 of soviet origin, provide Bulgaria with the most modern twin-engine tactical transport aircraft, compliant with NATO standards, interoperable with larger transport aircraft in service with other countries of the Atlantic Alliance, and capable of operating also in the most complex operational scenarios as a result of its advanced active and passive self-defence systems.

The Bulgarian C-27Js are equipped with a self-defence system, DASS (active and passive Defensive Aids Sub System) capable of protecting the aircraft against surface-to-air threats, and with ballistic protection and an inert-gas fuel tank explosion protection systems, greatly enhancing the aircraft's survivability even under the most difficult mission conditions.

Designed for all tactical transport operations in direct support of front-line troops, the C-27J is capable of operating with complete autonomy from land-based equipment and can take-off and land under any weather condition on semi-prepared runways of even less than 500 metres in length. The C-27J is also the best choice for civil protection missions and for humanitarian relief activities.

The C-27J is today the best selling twin-turboprop military tactical airlifter in the world, ordered by six air forces: Italian (12 aircraft) Greek (12, plus 3 options), Lithuanian (3), Bulgarian (5) and by US Army and US Air Force (78), for a total of 110 aircraft. Furthermore the C-27J has also been selected by the Romanian Air Force for 7 aircraft, with a contract currently under negotiation.

**Alenia Aeronautica**, a Finmeccanica Company, is the largest Italian aeronautic player which operates world-wide in the commercial and military aviation, unmanned aerial vehicles and aerostructures. Alenia Aeronautica also coordinates the activities of Alenia Aermacchi and Alenia Aeronavali - wholly owned companies – respectively active in the design and manufacturing of military trainer aircraft and in the overhaul, maintenance and modification of military and civil aircraft. With its joint venture ATR, Alenia Aeronautica is the world leader in the regional turboprop market. Over 2006 Alenia Aeronautica reported revenues of 1,908 millions Euro, backlog for 7,538 millions Euro and orders for 2,634. The total workforce is 12,135.