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Alenia Aeronautica delivers third C-27J to the Italian Air Force The C-27J fleet in service has performed over 1800 flights

Alenia Aeronautica, a Finmeccanica company, has delivered the third C-27J tactical transport aircraft to the Italian Air Force. The ItAF have ordered 12 of the twin-engine aircraft, seven of which will be in service by the year end.

Currently, there are 12 C-27Js operational with three air forces: eight in Greece, three in Italy and one in Lithuania.

As of today, the C-27J fleet in service with the three armed forces has performed a total of about 1800 flights, has achieved an excellent level of operational availability with an operational readiness rate above 80%. In March 2007 the C-27J fleet in service with the Italian Air Force and Lithuanian Air Force achieved an operational readiness rate of 100%. In addition, the aircraft has been used in complex operational scenarios in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The C-27J production program envisages the delivery of two aircraft in September, one for Greece and one for Italy; one for Bulgaria in October; one for Italy in November; and, two aircraft for Italy in December for a total of 18 airplanes in service by the year end.

110 C-27Js have been ordered so far by six different air forces (Greece, Italy, Bulgaria, Lithuania, U.S. Army and U.S. Air Force). In addition, the aircraft was selected by Romania, which is expected to sign an order for 7 aircraft within the next few weeks.

The aircraft is under evaluation by many of the world's air forces. In Canada, for instance, it fully meets the requirement for the replacement of the current twin-engine Buffalos and of the four-engine C-130s used for search & rescue missions. Among other countries interested in the aircraft, the C-27J has been formally evaluated by the air forces of Australia, Czech Republic, Slovakia and Slovenia.

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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.