

Siauliai, 27 December 2006

Alenia Aeronautica: the first C-27J delivered to the Lithuanian Air Force

Alenia Aeronautica has delivered to the Lithuanian Republic's Air Force the first of three C-27J tactical airlifters ordered by the Baltic country. The contract, for a total amount of €75 million, had been signed last June.

The C-27Js will be used for troops and cargo transport, in and out of the national boundaries, within the operational scenarios ruled by NATO, of which Lithuania has been member from 2004. The next two C-27Js will be delivered, one in 2008 and the other in 2009.

The C-27J represents the most advanced new-generation medium tactical military airlifter and will allow the Lithuanian Air Force, engaged in a modernisation campaign, to fully respect the interoperability standards required by the NATO Countries.

The C-27J is the only aircraft of its category specifically designed as tactical transport aircraft and thanks to its operational characteristics ensures unique short take-off and landing performances, from paved and unpaved surfaces; full self-deployment operations thanks to its APU, Auxiliary Power Unit; full interoperability with other aircraft in service with NATO Air Forces, thanks to the large cargo compartment that allows the use of NATO-standard pallets and to the state-of-the art avionic and self-protection systems, in order to operate in the most difficult operational scenarios.

The Lithuanian choice, followed by the decision taken on 1st December by Romania to select the C-27J for the renewal of its medium airlifter fleet, confirms the C-27J as the most successful aircraft with the new NATO members and strengthens its candidacy in other bids under way in Europe and in America, where the operational performances are the key element to determine its choice by the different Air Forces.

In addition to Lithuania, the aircraft has already been ordered so far by the Italian Air Force (12 aircraft), Greek Air Force (12 aircraft, plus 3 options) and by the Bulgarian Defence Ministry (8 aircraft) and selected by the Romanian Air Force (7 aircraft). In the United States, the C-27J runs for the JCA, Joint Cargo Aircraft programme, for the renewal of the Army's and Air Force's transport aircraft fleet, while in Canada it is proposed for the renewal of the Search and Rescue aircraft fleet. The C-27J is also under evaluation by Australia, Ireland, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and by other Countries recently become NATO members, such as Czech Republic, Slovenia and Slovakia.

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 Aermacchi and 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 2005 Alenia Aeronautica reported a value of production of 2,046 millions Euro, backlog for 6,865 millions Euro and orders for 3,230. The total workforce is 11,198.

