

Roma, 22 February 2007

Alenia Aeronautica successfully completes pre-production verifications and starts assembly of the first Boeing 787 Dreamliner horizontal stabiliser

Alenia Aeronautica, a Finmeccanica company, has begun assembly activities for the first production series of the Boeing 787 Dreamliner horizontal stabiliser in its Foggia plant, after having successfully completed tests on a pre-production example of the stabiliser.

The horizontal stabiliser, consisting of 2 monolithic cocured boxes, is 20 metres long and, like the 787 fuselage and wings, is made of carbon fibre materials. The cocured box of the 787's horizontal stabilizer produced in Foggia is to date the biggest composite monolithic structure ever built for a commercial airplane, weighing 540 kg, and is manufactured in a one-shot autoclave polymerization cycle starting from 27 wet uncured complex components.

The completion of the first horizontal stabiliser, now in the assembly stage, and the positive result of the tests confirm the validity of the innovative production process designed and implemented by Alenia Aeronautica. This achievement is a further confirmation of Alenia Aeronautica's role as prime partner in the 787, currently the most advanced commercial aviation programme, and confirms that the activities on this programme are proceeding on schedule.

In addition to the horizontal stabiliser, Alenia is manufacturing also two central fuselage sections of the plane in its plant in Grottaglie, near Taranto. These two sections, together with the horizontal stabiliser, are equal to 14% of the 787 structure, Italy's ever bigger share in a commercial jet airplane programme.

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.