

Rome, 7 December 2007

Finmeccanica: Alenia Aeronautica sign with Romania a 217 million euro contract for seven C-27J

Today in Bucharest Alenia Aeronautica signed a contract for seven C-27J Spartans valued at approximately Euro217 million. The contract signed with Romtecnica, National Company for Foreign Trade of the Romanian Ministry of Defence, confirms the C-27J's position as the standard tactical airlifter for NATO countries.

In addition to seven aircraft, the contract also includes services such as: pilots training, initial logistics support and a flight simulator that will be based in Bucharest. The first aircraft will be delivered by the end of 2008.

The C-27J is today the best selling twin-turboprop military airlifter in the world ordered by seven air forces: Italian (12 aircraft), Greek (12 + 3 options), Lithuanian (3), Bulgarian (5), US Army and Air Force (78), Romanian (7) for a total of 117 + 3 options.

Alenia Aeronautica's C-27J was selected over the EADS CASA C-295M by the Romanian Air Force in November 2006. The C-27J, while competitive from a financial standpoint, was also the only aircraft in the competition able to fully meet Bucharest Defence Ministry's technical requirements.

The C-27J was the only aircraft that satisfied the Romanian request for an APU (Auxiliary Power Unit) equipped airlifter that provides the aircraft with the capability to operate with complete autonomy from land based equipment; a complete automatic defence system against all land-based threats; the capability of reaching 5000 metres of altitude with full payload within 15 minutes; a large-capacity flight data recorder and above all operational interoperability with the other transport aircraft in service with Romania and the other NATO countries, in particular the C-130 Hercules. Thanks to its wide fuselage and its strong cargo floor, the C-27J is the only tactical transport aircraft in its class that is fully interoperable with heavier airlifters.