

Modernization Work Begins in Naples on the G.222 for Afghanistan

Naples, Italy—October 31, 2008—The refurbishment and modernization of 18 G.222s, purchased by the United States Air Force and destined for the re-established Afghan Air Force, has begun at Alenia Aeronautica's Capodichino plant in Naples.

On September 30, Alenia North America signed a \$287 million contract to provide 18 refurbished and modernized G.222 aircraft. The aircraft were previously in service with the Italian Air Force and reacquired by Alenia Aeronautica in conjunction with the Italian Air Force's acquisition of a new fleet of C-27J Spartans. The aircraft are to be modernized at Capodichino with state of the art avionics and general improvements according to the specific requirements of the United States Air Force. Two of these craft will be outfitted for a VIP soundproof module and equipped with seats, desks and a pantry so as to be used for the transport of Afghan leaders.

Four G.222s, sent from Pisa and Pratica di Mare air bases, have already arrived at Capodichino to begin the refurbishment and modernization process. The eighteen G.222s to be provided to the Afghan National Army Air Corps were produced between 1977 and 1985 in several avionic and cockpit configurations. As part of the modernization effort, all 18 will be upgraded to a standard avionic and system configuration, with a new autopilot system, ballistic protection and new maintenance operations. The refurbishment and modernizations are anticipated to last between 12 and 15 months per aircraft.

The first refurbished and modernized G.222 will be delivered to the Combined Security Transition Command in Afghanistan halfway through 2009 and the entire supply will be complete by 2011.

About Alenia North America

Alenia North America is a subsidiary of Alenia Aeronautica and part of the Finmeccanica Group. Its mission is to further expand the industrial and commercial presence of the Alenia Group in North America. Alenia North America Inc. is headquartered in Washington, D.C. with offices in Seattle, Washington; Long Beach, California; and Fort Worth, Texas. Alenia North America - Canada, a subsidiary wholly owned by Alenia North America, has offices in Ottawa, Canada. Alenia North America is also a shareholder in several joint venture companies located in the United States. Global Aeronautica, a joint venture with The Boeing Company, located in North Charleston, South Carolina, and performs significant integration and sub assembly work for the Boeing 787 program. Global Military Aircraft Systems (GMAS), a joint venture with L-3 Communications Integrated Systems, is a center of excellence to support the C-27J in North America. GMAS is headquartered in Madison, Mississippi. Alenia North America has recently announced its intent to establish a new final assembly and production facility for the C-27J in the United States. The C-27J is the world leader in the twin engine military tactical aircraft market with 117 units sold worldwide. The C-27J was recently selected by the U.S. Army and Air Force for the Joint Cargo Aircraft (JCA) Program.

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