

For Immediate Release

Attention: News editors, assignment editors, city editors and art editors, photo editors

MEDIA ADVISORY

A MASTERPIECE IS REBORN: ALENIA NORTH AMERICA MARKS SUCCESSFUL RESTORATION AND EXHIBITION OF RAPHAEL-ERA PAINTING AT NATIONAL GALLERY OF CANADA

Festivities celebrate painting's first public unveiling and Italy's National Day

June 2, 2009 Ottawa, ON – Today at the National Gallery of Canada, aerospace firm Alenia North America will commemorate the first public viewing of the 500-year-old artistic masterpiece, ***Saint Julian Hospitaller*** by Raphael contemporary Perino del Vaga, at an evening reception jointly hosted by the Embassy of Italy. Alenia funded the restoration of the painting at Rome's Galleria Colonna, and the painting appears for the first time since restoration as part of the National Gallery's new exhibit, **From Raphael to Caracci: The Art of Papal Rome**.

The event coincides with Italy's National Day, Festa della Repubblica, and the reception is jointly hosted by Italy's Ambassador to Canada, His Excellency Gabriele Sardo, and Alenia North America President and CEO Giuseppe Giordo. The evening's programme will include showing of a short, behind-the-scenes documentary on the Saint Julian Hospitaller restoration, and a presentation by Ambassador Sardo on the recovery of the Abruzzo region of Italy from the recent devastating earthquake.

"We are very pleased that Canadians will be the first to see the fruits of Alenia's sponsorship and our great appreciation for art and design shown with the restoration of this unheralded masterpiece," said Alenia CEO Giuseppe Giordo. "Our company is an aerospace and defence firm, and you may wonder what that has to do with art, but at Alenia we have a great appreciation for design, art and quality. Italians are renowned for this and it seems only fitting that we would celebrate this commitment on Italy's National Day."

Alenia North America is a member of the Finmeccanica Group – one of the largest aerospace, defence, electronics, transportation, space and technology companies in the world. The restoration of *Saint Julian Hospitaller* follows previous sponsorships and restoration projects by Alenia and Finmeccanica within the art world.

Reception for Festa della Repubblica and unveiling of the restored masterpiece *Saint Julian Hospitaller* by Perino del Vaga

Location: National Gallery of Canada, Sussex Drive, Ottawa

Time: Doors open at 6:00 pm, formal program begins at 6:45 pm

All media and photographers are invited to attend

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; Fort Worth, Texas, and Smyrna, Georgia. 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, 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 also committed to establishing a new final assembly and production facility for the C-27J in Jacksonville, Florida. The C-27J is the world leader in the twin engine military tactical aircraft market. Alenia is proposing the C-27J as Canada's new Fixed-Wing Search and Rescue (FWSAR) aircraft. The C-27J has been ordered by the Italian, Greek, Lithuanian, Bulgarian, Romanian Air Forces and the U.S. Army & Air Force. The C-27J has also been selected by Morocco and is competing around the world.

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