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Alenia Aeronautica celebrates 5,000 flight hours of the Italian Air Force's C-27J

Alenia Aeronautica welcomes with satisfaction another important result reached by the C-27J Spartan, world best seller in the tactical transport aircraft category: the Italian Air Force (AMI) has reached 5,000 flight hours. The meaningful goal has been celebrated today at an event at Pisa's military air base, 46th Air Wing's headquarters.

Starting from January 2007, Alenia Aeronautica has delivered eleven of the 12 C-27Js planned in the contract. The aircraft version requested is particularly sophisticated and envisages, in addition to the basic configuration, a flight-refuelling device, a self-protection system and a flight-data-projection system on two head-up-displays, one per each pilot.

The C-27J has been ordered by the air forces of Italy, Greece, Bulgaria, Lithuania, Romania, Morocco and by the U.S. Army and Air Force for a total of 121 airplanes, and has also been selected by the Slovakian Air Force.

The C-27J is a twin-engine turboprop tactical transport aircraft with state-of-the-art technology, avionics, propulsion and systems; it provides the best performances as compared with the competitors' in all weather conditions, high cost effectiveness, extreme operating flexibility and it is the only aircraft of its class offering interoperability with heavier airlifters.

The C-27J is capable of performing many missions such as transport of troop, goods and medicines, logistical re-supply, MEDEVAC, airdrop operations, paratroopers' launches, humanitarian assistance and missions in support of homeland security.

The C-27J is provided with advanced avionics and engines (Rolls Royce AE2100-D2 which guarantee a 4,650 SHP power) and, thanks to a loading system perfectly compatible with that of the C-130 family aircraft, it can carry pallets weighing up to 4,700 Kg and high up to 2,20 metres.

The avionics, whose architecture is totally redundant to increase missions' security and reliability, permit to operate in any weather condition and in any operational scenario, thanks to the excellent performances and a low workload for the pilots.

The C-27J is able to take-off from and land on unprepared strips, long less than 500 metres, with a maximum take-off weight of 30,500 Kg; it can transport up to 60 equipped soldiers or up to 46 paratroopers and, in the air ambulance version, 36 stretchers and 6 medical assistants.

The big cargo cross section (2,60 metres in height and 3,33 metres in width) together with the high floor strength (cargo capacity of 4,900 Kg/m), allow the transport of complete heavy big-sized military equipments. The C-27J can, for example, carry engines of both combat and transport airplanes such as C-130, Eurofighter, F-16 and Mirage 2000, directly on the respective engine dollies without special equipment.

The C-27J is designed, developed and tested as a true military aircraft using military standards to produce a robust, safe and performing aircraft, and has obtained Military Qualification Certificate. At the same time the C-27J is airworthy to civil standards, as witnessed by its certification from the Civil Aviation Authority.

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 Alenia Aermacchi and Alenia 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 ventures ATR, SCAC and Superjet International, Alenia Aeronautica is the world leader in the regional turboprop market and a top player in the regional jet sector. Over 2008 Alenia Aeronautica reported revenues of 2,530 millions Euro, backlog for 8,281 millions Euro and orders for 2,720. The total workforce is 13,907.