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Firms joint venture to bring Army Aviation office to city
L-3 has presence in state, adds its Italian partner

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From Staff reports

Global Military Aircraft Systems (GMAS), a joint venture company of Finmeccanica's Alenia North America, Inc. and L-3 Communications, will open a program office in Huntsville. L-3 Integrated Systems is a subsidiary of L-3 Communications.

GMAS said the office will be near Redstone Arsenal and will serve as the company's focal point for all Army Aviation programs. GMAS said it in the process of selecting a site.

It intends to occupy its space as soon as lease agreements and building modifications are completed.

L-3 currently has more than 3,500 employees in the state working in several divisions of the company, including over 250 in Huntsville. According to the company, the location of the GMAS office in Huntsville indicates L-3's commitment to Alabama and introduces its partner, Alenia, an Italian aircraft manufacturer, to the area.

"L-3 has a significant presence in Alabama today and GMAS is the latest example of our commitment to this community and to providing the best solutions necessary to meet the warfighter's needs," said Alison Hartley, vice president business development, L-3 Communications Integrated Systems.

"We are delighted to be part of the Huntsville community supporting the defense industry and, ultimately, our men and women in the armedforces," said Jaime Thurmond, vice president, military programs, Alenia North America, Inc.

The program office will house management and support personnel for the GMAS C-27J program. GMAS is offering the C-27J Spartan aircraft to the Army for its Future Cargo Aircraft program.

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