

## **Alenia North America: Board of Directors Approves the Creation of a U.S. Defense Company to Manage Defense Business**

Washington—March 5, 2008—Today, Alenia North America, a subsidiary of Alenia Aeronautica and part of the Finmeccanica Group, announced that its Board of Directors has approved the creation of Alenia Defense Company. The newly created company is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Alenia North America, Inc., and will operate under a Special Security Agreement (SSA) with the U.S. Department of Defense to facilitate the management of classified information as required to pursue and perform defense business. Jaime Thurmond will serve as the president of the company, which will be located in Washington, D.C.

“The creation of Alenia Defense Company is a critical step in our long term strategy to expand our presence in the United States,” said Giuseppe Giordo, president and chief executive officer of Alenia North America, Inc. “Compliance with specific organizational and operational requirements, together with an SSA, will insulate the company from foreign ownership and control and permit us to expand our direct business with the U.S. Government.”

Alenia North America will transfer its controlling interests in Global Military Aircraft Systems to Alenia Defense Company. Other companies and areas of business will be added to support the growth of Alenia Defense Company.

### **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 is headquartered in Washington, D.C. with offices in Seattle, Washington; Long Beach, California; and 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 Vought Aircraft 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 Integrated Systems, is a center of excellence to support the C-27J in North America. GMAS has committed to establishing a new facility in Madison, Mississippi. Alenia North America has recently announced its intent to establish a new final assembly and production facility for the C-27J at Cecil Field in Jacksonville, Florida. The new facility will be established in partnership with Boeing Integrated Defense Systems. 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 & Air Force for the Joint Cargo Aircraft (JCA) Program.

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