

OPTION EXERCISED FOR THE NINTH AND TENTH FREMM FRIGATE***The FREMM program for the Italian Navy is now complete***

Trieste/Rome, 16 April 2015 - Orizzonte Sistemi Navali S.p.A., a joint venture between Fincantieri (51%) and Finmeccanica (49%), and prime contractor for Italy within the international Italian-French FREMM - Multi Mission European Frigates - program, was notified by OCCAR (the Organisation for Joint Armament Cooperation) of the option exercise for the construction of the ninth and tenth vessel, completing the supply of 10 vessels to the Italian Navy. The value of the order for Orizzonte Sistemi Navali S.p.A. amounts to 764 million euros.

These units too, to be delivered after 2020, will feature a high degree of flexibility as the previous ones, and will be able to operate in all tactical situations. 144 metres long with a beam of 19.7 metres, the ships will have a displacement at full load of approximately 6,700 tonnes and will have a maximum speed of over 27 knots, providing accommodation for a crew of 200.

The ships of the FREMM program are state of the art vessels of the European and the Italian defence in the Mediterranean Sea and will replace the “Lupo” and “Maestrale” class frigates built by Fincantieri in the 1970s.

Giuseppe Bono, Fincantieri Chief Executive Officer, stated: *“Considering the effort which the Italian State is doing, we expect that our workers and those of all the companies which benefit from these orders will endeavour to achieve efficiency levels which will allow to reduce the price of the product, in the interest of the entire country”*.

Finmeccanica CEO and General Manager, Mauro Moretti said: *“The Italian and French programme for the new FREMM (multi-purpose) European Multi Mission Frigates is the most important European military naval programme ever implemented. The vessel-based systems produced by Finmeccanica are capable of managing a range of continuously developing operational scenarios with cutting edge technology”*.

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Fincantieri is one of the world's largest shipbuilding groups and number one by diversification and presence in all high value-added market sectors, having built more than 7,000 vessels in over 230 years of its maritime history. It is world leader in cruise ship construction and a reference player in other sectors, from naval vessels to cruise ferries, from mega-yachts to special high value-added vessels, from ship repairs and conversions to offshore vessels. Headquartered in Trieste (Italy), the Group has approximately 21,700 employees, of whom around 7,700 in Italy, and 21 shipyards in 4 continents. In 2013 the Group acquired VARD, a company listed on the Singapore Stock Exchange that builds offshore support vessels for oil & gas exploration and production. Fincantieri has doubled in size to become the West's leading shipbuilder. Fincantieri operates in the United States through its subsidiary Fincantieri Marine Group (FMG). This company, which serves important government customers, including the U.S. Navy and Coast Guard, has three shipyards (Marinette Marine, Bay Shipbuilding, Ace Marine), all located in the Great Lakes region. Fincantieri is present in the UAE with Etihad Ship Building, a joint venture set up with Al Fattan Ship Industries and Melara Middle East, to design, produce and sell different types of civilian and military ships as well as perform maintenance and refitting activities..

Finmeccanica is Italy's leading manufacturer in the high technology sector and ranks among the top ten global players in Aerospace, Defence and Security. Listed on the Milan Stock Exchange (FNC IM; SIFI.MI), in 2014 Finmeccanica generated revenues of about 14 billion Euro. With 273 locations and production facilities in 20 countries, Finmeccanica is a multinational and multicultural group which boasts a significant presence in four domestic markets: Italy, the United Kingdom, the U.S. and Poland. Finmeccanica's core business activities are in the following sectors: Helicopters (AgustaWestland), Defence Electronics and Security (Selex ES, DRS Technologies), Aeronautics (Alenia Aermacchi). The company also has a significant position in Space (Telespazio, Thales Alenia Space), Defence Systems (OTO Melara, WASS, MBDA) and Transportation (Ansaldo STS, AnsaldoBreda).

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