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Selex ES Falco flies with Gabbiano radar for ground mapping and GMTI

Selex ES, a Finmeccanica company, has completed a flight trials campaign that saw its widely used Gabbiano radar installed on the company's Falco UAS. The trials, which took place in Bulgaria, allowed the T-20 version of the Gabbiano to demonstrate a number of modes including air to sea surveillance with Track While Scan (TWS), high resolution ground mapping (Spot/Strip-SAR), ship target imaging and classification with ISAR mode (Inverse Synthetic Aperture Radar), navigation with ground mapping and weather avoidance.

"The open-architecture of the Falco made installing the Gabbiano radar a simple matter of adapting the UAV's nose bay" said Selex ES' Fabio Pauluzzo, adding "The successful combination of our Falco and Gabbiano product families will allow Selex ES to provide a more versatile tactical UAV solution for typical MALE multi-sensor missions."

The flight campaign highlighted how the Gabbiano T-20's light weight, low power consumption, ease of installation and advanced performance allowed it to improve the Falco's long-range surveillance capabilities. At up to 160 nautical miles over sea and ground, the Gabbiano was able to provide air to surface surveillance modes and high resolution imaging information.

In addition to this success, the Falco family of UAS continues to improve; other recent trials saw the new EVO variant of the Falco prove over three months of flights its extended endurance and increased payload capacity, exceeding 18 hours and 100kg respectively.

Notes to Editors

Selex ES' Falco and Falco EVO can integrate a wide range of third party and in-house sensors, including the company's PicoSAR radar whose active electronically scanned array (AESA) was specifically designed for small platforms such as UAVs. PicoSAR, which has already been selected by several Falco Customers, offers three radar imaging modes, plus a ground moving target indicator (GMTI) and a Geo-MTI mode.

The Gabbiano family of Radars are lightweight, easy to install and come with a wide range of state of the art modes. For Air to Sea operations, the radar's ISAR imaging mode and non-cooperative target classification make the difference in maritime patrol and search & rescue missions.

Selex ES, a Finmeccanica company, is a global leader in electronic and information technologies for defence systems, aerospace, data, infrastructures, homeland security and protection and sustainable "smart" solutions.

The company was created on 1st January 2013 from the merge of SELEX Galileo, SELEX Eltag and SELEX Sistemi Integrati, to answer the growing demand for enhanced capabilities in the national security and military domains as well as in the management of complex civil infrastructures, by leveraging on collective strengths and capitalizing on the synergies within key business areas.

Selex ES has a workforce of approximately 18,000 people, revenues in excess of EUR 3.5 Billion Euros, main operations in Italy and the UK and a strong industrial and commercial footprint in the US, Germany, Turkey, Romania, Brazil, Saudi Arabia and India.