

Leonardo-Finmeccanica: the SW-4 ‘Solo’ remotely piloted helicopter begins test campaign in Grottaglie airport

- **Mauro Moretti: “The SW-4 ‘Solo’ is testimony of Leonardo’s industrial commitment and innovation in unmanned aircraft, a sector of increased global competition”**
- **Leonardo is the only European company able to provide a complete ‘unmanned’ system**
- **The flight campaign is carried out in collaboration with the Distretto Tecnologico Aerospaziale Pugliese (DTA) and Ente Nazionale Aviazione Civile (ENAC)**

Rome, 16 December 2016 – With the first flight of the innovative remotely piloted helicopter SW-4 ‘Solo’ yesterday at the Taranto-Grottaglie Airport, Leonardo-Finmeccanica begins the test campaign in order to verify the aircraft’s operational characteristics and validate flight procedures, in both normal and emergency conditions.

Mauro Moretti, CEO and General Manager Leonardo said: “The SW-4 ‘Solo’ is testimony of Leonardo’s industrial commitment and innovation in unmanned aircraft, a sector of increased global competition and is part of a portfolio of solutions making Leonardo the only European company able to provide a complete ‘unmanned’ system. When presented with an advancement of technology, the winning regions are those who can adapt to market needs. Grottaglie is an example of this.”

Yesterday's activity was part of a collaboration started in 2015 between Leonardo, Aeroporti di Puglia (AdP) and the Distretto Tecnologico Aerospaziale Pugliese (DTA) for the “Grottaglie Test Bed,” which is a candidate to become the Italian solution to the national and European industry demand for the testing of unmanned aircraft. The flight campaign, carried out in collaboration with the DTA and Ente Nazionale Aviazione Civile (ENAC, the Italian Civil Aviation Authority), will continue during the first few months of 2017. The validation of procedures and regulations for the use of unmanned aircraft are among its key objectives.

The ‘Solo,’ derived from the SW-4 helicopter produced by Leonardo in Poland and equipped with advanced systems and sensors also made by the company in Italy and the UK, is designed to operate with or without pilot on board. The ‘Solo,’ recently returned from a successful demonstration campaign in the UK, is an innovative solution for activities such as hydrological and critical infrastructure monitoring, firefighting, search and rescue, patrol, and disaster relief activities.

Note

Following the process of the reorganisation of the **Leonardo-Finmeccanica** Group’s companies, it should be noted that from January 1st 2016: the “Helicopters” division has absorbed the activities of AgustaWestland; the “Aircraft” division has absorbed part of the activities of Alenia Aermacchi; the “Aero-structures” division has absorbed part of the activities of Alenia Aermacchi; the “Airborne & Space Systems” division has absorbed part of the activities of Selex ES; the “Land & Naval Defence Electronics” division has absorbed part of the activities of Selex ES; the “Security & Information Systems” division has absorbed part of the activities of Selex ES; the “Defence Systems” division has absorbed the activities of OTO Melara and WASS.

Leonardo-Finmeccanica is among the top ten global players in Aerospace, Defence and Security and Italy’s main industrial company. As a single entity from January 2016, organised into business divisions (Helicopters; Aircraft; Aero-structures; Airborne & Space Systems; Land & Naval Defence Electronics; Defence Systems; Security & Information Systems), Leonardo-Finmeccanica operates in the most competitive international markets by leveraging its areas of technology and product leadership. Listed on the Milan Stock Exchange (LDO), at 31 December 2015 Finmeccanica recorded consolidated revenues of 13 billion Euros and has a significant industrial presence in Italy, the UK and the U.S.