Leonardo’s new airborne HF radio to equip the Northrop Grumman E-2D fleet purchased by the U.S. Navy and international customers

- E-2D Advanced Hawkeye prime contractor Northrop Grumman has placed a contract with Leonardo to provide its SRT-400 high frequency (HF) radio system
- The radios will provide secure and stable voice and data communications
- Leonardo has invested for over 50 years in airborne radio technology to become a leader in the domain. The company has sold thousands of units of its flexible, easy to operate radio systems to customers worldwide

Rome, 4 February 2021 - Leonardo has been awarded a contract by Northrop Grumman to provide its new high frequency (HF) radio system, the SRT-400, for the U.S. Navy’s fleet of E-2D Advanced Hawkeye airborne early warning and control aircraft.

Leonardo has been involved in the design and manufacture of airborne HF systems for decades. Leonardo’s experience dates back to the 1970s, having sold thousands of its previous generation RT-170 (170W), RT-270 (200W) and RT-470 (400W) to customers around the world.

Leonardo’s extensive research and development activities in the high frequency airborne radio field has led to the design and production of the state-of-the-art HF Single Side Band system SRT-400, which is suitable for fixed and rotary wing aircraft.

A patented Leonardo technology reduces TX power consumption by more than 40% compared to previous designs, reducing heat dissipation and greatly improving reliability. Both transceivers can be interfaced with multiple Antenna Tuning Units (ATU) matching all kinds of existing antennas (loop, wire or notch).

The SRT-400 and its low power variant, the SRT-200, combine high flexibility and simplified operations into a reduced size and weight package achieved through innovative electrical and mechanical design.

Variants of the E-2 Hawkeye have been in operation since the early 1960s. It provides ship or land based all-weather airborne early warning and command and control, detecting and tracking targets at extended range in deep water, littoral and over-land environments.

Leonardo, a global high-technology company, is among the top ten world players in Aerospace, Defence and Security and Italy’s main industrial company. Organized into five business divisions, Leonardo has a significant industrial presence in Italy, the United Kingdom, Poland and the USA, where it also operates through subsidiaries such as Leonardo DRS (defense electronics), and joint ventures and partnerships ATR, MBDA, Telespazio, Thales Alenia Space and Avio. Leonardo competes in the most important international markets by leveraging its areas of technological and product leadership (Helicopters, Aircraft, Aerostructures, Electronics, Cyber Security and Space). Listed on the Milan Stock Exchange (LDO), in 2019 Leonardo recorded consolidated revenues of €13.8 billion and invested €1.5 billion in Research and Development. The Group has been part of the Dow Jones Sustainability Index (DJSI) since 2010 and is named as sustainability global leader in the Aerospace & Defence sector for the second year in a row of DJSI in 2020.