

Leonardo and Kangde Investment Group of China agree guiding principles to partner on the new COMAC CR929 long range airliner

- **Leonardo will leverage competences and intellectual property developed in Italy while Kangde will provide the financial coverage for the programme**
- **Following the finalization of the agreement Leonardo will be able to better seize opportunities in the fast growing Chinese commercial aviation market**
- **Profumo: Leonardo's decision to participate in the CR929 programme enables Pomigliano D'Arco site to play a key role in the Company's international growth path**

Rome, October 26th 2018 – Leonardo has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Kangde Investment Group of China within the framework of COMAC CR929 long range airliner programme, aiming at further growth of its presence in the Country. Leonardo will leverage competences and intellectual property developed in Italy while Kangde will provide the financial coverage for the programme. Following the finalization of the agreement the two partners will establish a joint venture named Kangde Marco Polo Aerostructures Jiangsu Co. Ltd., which will be responsible for the development, production and assembly of composite materials components for the CR929 aircraft. This will allow Leonardo to take further advantage of its proprietary technologies and capabilities for the development of a new long range airliner.

Alessandro Profumo, Leonardo's CEO, said: "Leonardo's decision to participate in the CR929 provides further recognition of our advanced capabilities in the design and manufacture of composite aerostructures. As announced in our industrial plan, are broadening the core mission of our Aerostructures Division by leveraging the Pomigliano D'Arco site (near Naples) and growing our business in China, where we are already present in the helicopter and air traffic control sectors."

China is expected to have requirements for more than 1,500 new wide body aircraft in the next twenty years. Leonardo is also looking at the development of the Chinese space industry and potential opportunities to collaborate in this growing market.

Kangde Investment Group celebrated the laying of the foundation stone of the new facility in Zhangjiagang city, in the Chinese province of Jiangsu, today where the carbon fibre fuselage sections for the new CR929 long-range airliner will be built. The ceremony was attended by representatives from Leonardo, Comac and Kangde Investment Group, the Jiangsu Province Governor and other local dignitaries, as well as a large representation of Chinese aerospace companies and research institutes.

The CR929 programme was launched by COMAC, together with the Russian Company UAC, in 2017 with the aim of developing a long-range wide-body aircraft. Leonardo signed a preliminary agreement with COMAC, a public Chinese company in charge of civil aircraft programmes in the country, in 2015 to start collaboration for the development and production of sections of the fuselage made of composite materials.