

Southampton, 8th July 2014

Finmeccanica – Selex ES invests £10M in new Southampton base for electronic systems

On 8th July, Finmeccanica – Selex ES officially inaugurated its brand-new £10M facility in Millbrook Industrial Park, Southampton. Janice Munday, Director of Advanced Manufacturing and Services at the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS), and Finmeccanica – Selex ES CEO, Fabrizio Giulianini, led the ribbon-cutting ceremony which was attended by employees and VIP guests. The new base brings together the company's three previously separate South Coast sites in a single Southampton location, which now employs around 530 people. The company's commitment to the region includes supporting a supply chain of over 540 regional suppliers, and partnering with local Universities, including the University of Southampton, Imperial College, Oxford, Reading and UCL, to retain world-leading technology advantage.

Southampton has been home to Finmeccanica – Selex ES's centre of excellence for infra-red detectors for over fifty years. With the opening of the new First Avenue site, the city will now also play host to some of the firm's communications and air traffic management products and a number of key airborne and marine technologies. This major new commitment to the future of the firm in the city has involved the relocation of over 250 highly-skilled employees from Christchurch and 50 from Portsmouth.

In preparation for the move, the existing Southampton site has been extensively redeveloped to create a modern technology hub for the design, manufacture and support of a wide range of electronic systems for the defence, security and civil marketplaces. A modern new office facility has been constructed and the current manufacturing building has been refurbished.

The key objective of the South Coast consolidation in Southampton is to enhance the competitive market position of Finmeccanica – Selex ES by co-locating a number of highly-skilled teams and improving efficiency. Teams will be better able to collaborate and share technology development, resulting in lower costs and more competitive products. Building on successful business operations in the UK and in export markets, employees at Southampton will be a significant focus for growth within Finmeccanica – Selex ES.

Notes to editors

Capabilities located on the new Southampton site now encompass:

- Long-range communications systems, networked communications and tactical radio products and naval communications.
- Development and manufacture of infrared detectors and cameras for commercial, industrial and military applications.
- Air Traffic Management (ATM) systems & support to civil and military customers in the UK and export markets, information systems and support to Network Rail operations and project management, system engineering and facility design and delivery for NATS (National Air Traffic Services).
- Integrated airborne solutions that deliver trusted information to our customers for a safer, smarter world including Remotely Piloted Air Systems (RPAS), Communication, Navigation & Identification systems (CNI) and simulation & training.
- Marine communications, navigation, safety, security, and crew welfare electronics on small vessels to large super tankers.