

# Bit Market Services

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Oggetto : Leonardo-Finmeccanica-led "Team Skytale" is preferred bidder to upgrade over 400 UK platforms in major MoD 'friend or foe' refresh

*Testo del comunicato*

Vedi allegato.

## **Leonardo-Finmeccanica-led “Team Skytale” is preferred bidder to upgrade over 400 UK platforms in major MoD ‘friend or foe’ refresh**

- **The IFF (Identification Friend or Foe) system will provide radar operators with the ability to distinguish between allied forces and potential threats, helping avoid ‘friendly fire’**
- **The UK MoD will upgrade more than 400 UK operational aircraft, naval vessels and ground-based air defence systems to NATO’s new Mode 5 IFF standard by 2020**
- **Leonardo-Finmeccanica is a leader in Mode 5 IFF, delivering technology to the UK, Italy and Japan as well as for the new Saab Gripen E jet**

Farnborough, 12 July 2016 – Leonardo-Finmeccanica, partnered with Airbus DS Electronics and Border Security (EBS) as “Team Skytale”, has been chosen as preferred bidder by the UK Ministry of Defence to upgrade the Identification Friend or Foe (IFF) systems on more than 400 operational platforms, spanning land, air and sea. In 2020, the UK will be switching over to the new Mode 5 IFF standard, the latest version of the system which is being introduced by NATO. The Leonardo-Finmeccanica-led team is on course to upgrade all legacy air, naval and ground-based platforms with the new Mode 5 technology. Mode 5 uses the latest cryptographic techniques to overcome the security limitations of earlier standards which can be vulnerable to exploitation or deception by adversaries.

IFF allows operators to identify ‘friendly’ forces and distinguish them from potential threats. It does this by sending out an interrogation signal to unidentified aircraft and verifying the automatic responses received, effectively a modern-day challenge and password system. Ensuring that ground, air and naval crews can reliably recognise their compatriots is one of the main ways of avoiding ‘friendly fire’ incidents.

Following contract award, “Team Skytale” will upgrade all MoD platforms which have an out-of-service date after 2020, including 11 aircraft types (managed by Leonardo-Finmeccanica), 18 naval and 2 land-based platform types (managed by Airbus DS EBS). A sovereign support capability will also be provided, with the team establishing a UK-based Mode 5 IFF support hub.

A key element of the team’s approach is to minimise equipment types, using the Leonardo-Finmeccanica M428 Transponder and SIT 2010 cryptographic computer for all platforms. Both products were designed at Leonardo-Finmeccanica’s site in L’Aquila, Italy with some development work carried out in Basildon, UK. They will be manufactured at the company’s site in Latina. Airbus

### **Note**

Following the process of the reorganisation of the **Leonardo-Finmeccanica** Group’s companies, it should be noted that from January 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

DS EBS will provide its proven MSSR 2000 I® and MSR 1000 I Interrogator as well as its BTI 1000 I test equipment. It has delivered about 400 IFF interrogator systems to 30 countries worldwide. Among others, EBS' MSSR 2000 I interrogator is deployed on ships of the German, French and UK Royal Navy. In Germany, EBS has set up the air traffic control network of the German Air Force.

Leonardo-Finmeccanica is a leader in IFF technology. In the UK, the company has previously delivered Mode 5 IFF for the Royal Navy's Queen Elizabeth Class aircraft carriers and Royal Air Force Eurofighter Typhoons. Internationally, the company provides Mode 5 IFF technology for the Saab Gripen E fighter, has recently demonstrated innovative reverse-IFF (air-to-ground) capabilities on Italian Typhoon aircraft and is currently studying, within an UK MoD programme, this new capability for the future Eurofighter.

#### About Airbus DS Electronics and Border Security (EBS)

EBS is the new sensor house, a leading global provider of premium electronics in the areas of protection, reconnaissance and surveillance. The enterprise equips armed forces and security organisations around the world on the basis of a 100-year tradition and experience gained from renowned technological predecessors such as Dasa, Aérospatiale-Matra, Telefunken, Dornier and Zeiss. EBS employs some 4,000 employees generating revenues of approximately €1 billion per year. EBS is a 100% subsidiary of Airbus Defence and Space. Airbus Group has signed a Share Purchase Agreement with the investment company KKR in order to transfer ownership of initially 74,9 % of the EBS shares to KKR. The agreement is subject to customary closing conditions, including regulatory approvals and employee consultation, and is expected to be put into effect in the first quarter of 2017. Thereafter, the company will appear under the brand name "Hensoldt" following the tradition of a German pioneer of sensor technology whose name stands for the combination of excellence, innovation and efficiency.

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