Venegono (Varese), 12 May 2008

Alenia Aermacchi signs USD 13.8 million contract with Philippine Air Force

Alenia Aermacchi, a Finmeccanica company, has signed with the Department of National Defence a contract valued at USD 13.8 million for 18 SF-260F/PAF primary training aircraft.

In addition to the aircraft the contract, which is part of the programme to modernize the Philippine Armed Forces, also includes the training of pilots and technicians, technical assistance and the supply of ground support equipment and spare parts.

The delivery of the 18 SF-260F/PAF trainers will start 12 months after contract signature and will conclude within 18 months.

The aircraft will be assembled in the Philippines on behalf of Alenia Aermacchi, with the work being performed locally by Aerotech Industries Philippines Inc.

The agreement is further confirmation of the training qualities of the Aermacchi SF-260, which the Philippine Air Force (PAF) had previously procured in both the piston-engined variant (46 aircraft) and the turbine-powered model (18). The PAF also uses another Alenia Aermacchi product, the S-211 jet, for basic and advanced training.

Alenia Aermacchi confirms itself today as the only aeronautical manufacturer in the world capable of designing, developing and building trainers covering the entire military pilot training syllabus. The range of aircraft begins with the SF-260 for the primary and screening phases, the new turbofan-powered M-311 advanced trainer (a completely redesigned evolution of the S-211), the MB-339 used among others by the Italian Air Force’s “Frecce Tricolori” aerobatic team and the new M-346 advanced and Lead-In Fighter Trainer.

Background

The SF-260 is the most successful primary trainer available on the world market. The standard version is powered by a 260 HP six-cylinder engine.

Famous for its clean lines and excellent flight characteristics, it was created as a sport plane. Its performance and flying qualities allow air forces to use it to screen student pilots and to cover effectively the entire primary phase, minimising the selection costs in the later phases of the training programme. Sold in about 900 units, it is used by 27 military customers as well civilian flying schools.