

Abu Dhabi, 25 February 2009



Statement of Giorgio Zappa, Chief Operating Officer of Finmeccanica, on the selection of Finmeccanica for 48 M-346 advanced lead-in fighter trainer aircraft by the United Arab Emirates Government

The selection of our trainer by the Government of the United Arab Emirates - comments Giorgio Zappa, Chief Operating Officer of Finmeccanica - confirms the M-346 as the global benchmark for the advanced training of pilots of next-generation combat aircraft.

I would above all like to thank Guido Crosetto, Undersecretary of State MoD Italy, and General Vincenzo Camporini, Italy's Chief of Defence General Staff, for the trust they have shown in us and the support they provided, which helped us achieve this important result and thereby allowed Finmeccanica to register resounding successes in all areas of the international military aircraft market, including tactical transport, defence and training aircraft. The M-346 is today well positioned to become a real "best seller", with estimates of more than 2,000 aircraft worldwide over the next 20 years.

Finmeccanica plays a leading role in the global aerospace and defence industry, and participates in some of the sector's biggest international programmes through its group companies and well-established alliances with European and USA partners. A leader in the design and manufacture of helicopters, defence and security electronics, civil and military aircraft, aerostructures, satellites, space infrastructure and defence systems, Finmeccanica is Italy's leading high-tech company. It also boasts significant manufacturing assets and skills in the transport and energy sectors; it is listed on the Milan stock market and operates via a number of group companies and joint ventures. It has around 73,000 employees, with 12,400 working in the USA, 10,200 in the UK and 3,600 in France. As part of its drive to maintain and build on its technological excellence, Finmeccanica spends 14% of its revenues on Research and Development.