

Finmeccanica: Alenia Aeronautica signs a € 180 million contract with Turkey for 10 ATR 72 ASW

Turkey has confirmed its choice to renew the Navy's aircraft fleet with ATRs, in the version of maritime patrol and anti-submarine surveillance missions. At the end of the negotiations' process started last January with the selection of the aircraft by the Undersecretariat for Defence Industries of Turkey, Alenia Aeronautica, a Finmeccanica Company, and Turkey's Government have in fact signed the contract, of the value of \$219 million (equal to €180 million) which envisages the supply of ten ATR 72 ASW (Anti Submarine Warfare).

The agreement, envisaging deliveries to start in 2010, will pave the way to an intense industrial collaboration in the field of defence and security technologies with the main Turkish companies of this sector, both for project design and manufacturing activities.

The ATR 72 ASW aircraft for Turkey, provided with a mission system by the Thales company, are a special version, developed by Alenia Aeronautica, of the commercial transport ATR 72/500 aircraft. The ASW version, conceived for a cost-competitive medium range aircraft, is capable of carrying out anti-submarine missions, with the integration of the maritime patrol functions already implemented by the ATR 42 MP, the Maritime Patrol version currently in force within the Italian Guardia di Finanza (Customs Police) and Coast Guard.

In Turkey Alenia Aeronautica is also responsible for the promotion of the Eurofighter Typhoon, the European fighter manufactured by the Italian company together with BAE Systems and EADS. The programme involves 400 companies and 120,000 employees in Europe.