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## **MIDCAS consortium wins 50 million euro contract to supply mid-air collision avoidance system for unmanned aerial systems**

The MIDCAS consortium, comprising 13 European companies including the Finmeccanica Group companies Alenia Aeronautica, SELEX Galileo, SELEX Communications and SELEX Sistemi Integrati, has been awarded a contract by the European Defence Agency (EDA) - on behalf of the EDA's member countries (France, Germany, Italy, Spain and Sweden, with the latter as the lead country for the project) - to supply a mid-air collision avoidance system. The four-year contract is worth around 50 million euro.

The contract is to build a Sense & Avoid system that can identify and avoid potential mid-air collision threats to unmanned aerial systems (UAS).

The objective of the MIDCAS project is to establish, in close co-operation with European organisations such as Eurocontrol, the European Organisation for Civil Aviation Equipment (EUROCAE) and the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA), a Sense & Avoid standard for unmanned aerial systems. Using simulations and flight tests, it aims to develop a Sense & Avoid system able to meet the requirements of traffic separation and mid-air collision avoidance in non-segregated air space, in complete safety.

The Radio Technical Commission for Aeronautics (RTCA) and the Federal Aviation Authority (FAA), thanks to their participation to EUROCAE WG73, will be responsible for co-ordinating MIDCAS with the United States for the duration of the project.

"The project brings together 13 of the leading European aviation companies to work jointly on various European Sense & Avoid initiatives in order to develop a uniform strategy, supported by the EDA, which will integrate UAS in European air space", said Lennart Sindahl, Executive Vice-President of Saab AB and head of the aeronautics division. "It is only by working closely together that we can come to a joint agreement in Europe on how to resolve Sense & Avoid issues".

Filippo Bagnato, Finmeccanica's Vice President of Technical, Industrial and Commercial Development, commented, "As regards Italy, I must stress the important support given to this project by the Defence and the Transport ministries, which have always been aware of, and strongly believed in the value of Sense & Avoid systems, enabling us to develop joint requirements in the UAS sector – a sector destined to experience considerable growth around the world over the next few years. Moreover, we are proud that the Alenia Aeronautica – Finmeccanica unmanned aerial system Sky-Y has been chosen to carry out flight demonstrations".