

Roma, 12 February 2010

## **2009 Finmeccanica Innovation Awards held today in L'Aquila**

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The prize-giving ceremony for the Finmeccanica Innovation Awards, now in its sixth year, took place today in L'Aquila, at the Guardia di Finanza Station of Coppito.

Created to acknowledge the research carried out on a daily basis by a leading international aerospace and defence group, which employs more than 14,000 engineers worldwide and dedicates around 12% of its revenues to R&D every year, the Innovation Prize is an important recognition of Finmeccanica's technological excellence.

From more than 1250 entries, the 2009 Innovation Prize was awarded, on an equal basis, to:

**AgustaWestland**, for the creation of a new generation of rotor heads for helicopters, with higher safety and efficiency levels, better aerodynamics and ease of maintenance, and a significant reduction in vibrations.

**DRS Technologies**, for producing a new infra-red sensor that significantly improves performance: thanks to its greater sensitivity, effectiveness and efficiency, it can be used in a wider range of applications with an increase of competitiveness in the civil and military sectors. Specifically, the fact that it offers reduced radiation intensity favours its use in medical devices.

**SELEX Sistemi Integrati**, for devising a multifunctional integrated antenna, which opens the way for a new generation of radar and telecommunications systems: partly thanks to its small size, it can be used as a radar, transmitter and/or receiver and for electronic countermeasures. This is a particularly advanced product, the fruit of ten years of research carried out by SELEX Sistemi Integrati photonic sector.

The "**Patent of the Year**" award was assigned to AnsaldoBreda for a system, which, in the event of an accident or collision, is able to absorb and distribute the energy generated among the train cars, thanks to controlled-deformation plastic interfaces inserted in the train cars themselves.

Finally, the "**Best Supplier**" of the Finmeccanica Group went to Intecs Informatica e Tecnologia del Software SpA, for the significant contribution and support it provided to Ansaldo STS in the development and launch of the SSB ERTMS/SCMT, a highly redundant security system that provides drivers with detailed information on train control, and is responsible for automatic protection.

SELEX Communications and Thales Alenia Space received a **special mention** for ensuring the continuity of their operations and production in their Abruzzo plants in the exceptional conditions following the earthquake that struck the region in April.

"Finmeccanica invests heavily in innovation", commented chairman and CEO Pier Francesco Guarguaglini, "because without innovation, there is the risk of becoming less competitive on international markets, especially in the sectors with high technology content in which our companies

operate. We are particularly honoured to have had the opportunity to organise this ceremony in L'Aquila, at the Coppito barracks, which during the G8 was a symbol of both the country's ability to react to an emergency and its organisational capacity; Finmeccanica made a significant contribution to the event in both ways, making available the most advanced technologies we have at our disposal within a system framework. This combination makes our Group an example of technological excellence that is recognised worldwide".