

Paris, 9 April 2010

Ansaldo Energia and AREVA sign nuclear power Memorandum of Understanding

As part of the intergovernmental agreements between France and Italy to co-operate in nuclear power generation, Ansaldo Energia and its subsidiary Ansaldo Nucleare, both part of the Finmeccanica Group, signed a Memorandum of Understanding with AREVA in Paris today. The signing took place at the Fifth Forum of Italian-French dialogue, chaired by Italy's prime minister, Silvio Berlusconi, and by the French president, Nicolas Sarkozy.

The agreement aims to develop a progressive industrial partnership, starting with existing AREVA projects (for example, OL-3 in Finland), and later extending to Italian projects planned in the future, as well as other projects planned in countries such as France and the United Kingdom. Collaboration will cover both the production of special components, which Ansaldo could manufacture as part of its strategy of growth in the nuclear sector, and support with building and commissioning, as well as studies for licensing agreements for Italy, which Ansaldo Nucleare is in a position to offer thanks to its long-standing experience in these fields.

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 US 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. At the end of February 2010, the Finmeccanica Group had more than 77,000 employees, including almost 12,000 in the US, more than 10,000 in the UK, more than 4,300 in Poland, approximately 3,700 in France and more than 1,000 in Germany. As part of its drive to maintain and build on its technological excellence, Finmeccanica spends 11% of its revenues on Research and Development.