

## **Leonardo Vixen 500E AESA radar chosen for IAR-99 tech demonstrator**

- **Romania's National Institute for Aerospace Research "Elie Carafoli" (INCAS) will conduct integration work on its tech demonstrator IAR-99 TD with Leonardo's Vixen 500E AESA radar**
- **The Vixen 500E has recently been supplied to the United States for its Naval Test Pilot School and Leonardo AESA fire control radars have been chosen for Europe's latest generation single and twin-engine jets; Saab's Gripen E and the Eurofighter Typhoon**
- **Leonardo is Europe's leading AESA radar provider, with 30 international customers for its fire control and surveillance radars contributing to British high tech exports**

**Rome, 29th August 2017** – Leonardo's Vixen 500E AESA radar has been procured by the National Institute for Aerospace Research "Elie Carafoli" (INCAS), Romania's leading aerospace research and development establishment, for its new trainer technology demonstrator programme IAR-99 TD. The project is based on a Romanian Air Force IAR-99 Soim (prototype no. 7003) which will be modified by INCAS together with aircraft manufacturer Avioane Craiova.

Leonardo has worked with INCAS previously, providing its Seaspray 5000E AESA surveillance radar for INCAS's special mission BN-2 Islander aircraft. This is currently being used for scientific and environmental monitoring missions. It is hoped that the sale of the Vixen 500E could lead in future to Romania's fleet of IAR-99s being retrofitted with the new radar as part of a wider upgrade program.

Norman Bone, Managing Director of Leonardo's Airborne and Space Systems division, said: "This partnership with INCAS is representative of Leonardo's open and collaborative approach to meeting the demands of the market. By working together, we are able to better understand, and provide the best solution for, the needs of the Romanian MOD. Looking to the future, following further work on the IAR-99 Technology Demonstrator, we see further commercial potential outside of Romania and are looking forward to working with INCAS to address this."

Dr. Catalin Nae, General Manager of INCAS, said: "It is a dedicated development program towards a new generation trainer we develop at INCAS, as a follow-up on the current IAR-99 Soim in service for the Romanian MoD. IAR-99 TD is a technological demonstrator to fully test and further develop new technologies for advanced trainer, with enhanced sensing and combat capabilities. The Vixen 500E radar system will bring the capability that we consider critical with respect to the operational environment for our future trainer."

Paul Brummel CMG, the UK Ambassador to Romania, said: "I am delighted that Leonardo, a company spearheading British radar technology in Europe, is now a partner of the Romanian Government through INCAS. The British Embassy looks forward to helping the Romanian Armed Forces achieve its goals of modernisation with the support of other British companies offering cutting-edge technologies."

Vixen 500E is one of Leonardo's active electronically scanned array (AESA) radar systems, meaning that instead of physically pointing the radar's antenna at its target, a matrix of miniature radar modules are used to steer the beam electronically. This technology allows Vixen to combine high performance with reliability and a low cost of ownership, as well as being easy to install and operate. The prototype aircraft with the radar on-board is expected to be ready for testing by the end of 2017.

The contract with INCAS follows Leonardo's recent provision of the same Vixen 500E radar to the US Naval Test Pilot School (USNTPS) in Patuxent River, Maryland, where students will use the radar while training on-board the school's C-26 aircraft. Previously, Leonardo has also sold the Vixen 500E to the United States for the Department of Homeland Security.

Leonardo is Europe's leader in fire control radar. The company provides the Raven ES-05 AESA radar for Saab's Gripen E combat aircraft (which will go into service with both Sweden and Brazil) and leads the pan-European Euroradar consortium in the development of the Typhoon's new Captor-E AESA radar.