

## **Leonardo: Italian National Fire Corps expands AW139 helicopter fleet with €75 million order**

- **Contracts for five more AW139s add to the initial three-unit order, with two already delivered this year**
- **Italy aims to progressively replace their decades-old AB412 helicopters with modern AW139s for disaster relief, firefighting and airborne rescues**
- **61 AW139s ordered by the Italian Government for public services to date; over 270 customers from around 70 nations have already ordered over 1100 AW139s**

*Paris, 18 June 2019* – Leonardo announced **new signed contracts for five additional AW139s to the Italian National Fire Corps (Vigili del Fuoco, part of Ministry of the Interior)**, including integrated logistic support and training for crews and technicians. **The orders, valued at over €75 million**, add to the previously purchased three units, with two already delivered this year. The five new helicopters are expected to be delivered in June 2020.

**The Italian National Fire Corps intends to progressively replace the decades-old AB412s helicopters** and to guarantee optimal coverage and increased responsiveness across the country. Indeed, the introduction of the AW139 marks a major enhancement of airborne multirole capabilities with the world's most modern helicopter for maritime and mountain Search and Rescue (SAR), medical rescue, firefighting and disaster relief duties. **The fleet modernization programme includes an option for seven additional helicopters which could be added to the eight already ordered.**

**Over 816,000 rescues and sorties are performed every year countering fires across Europe, including many in Italy.** The Italian National Fire Corps AW139 helicopters feature a wide range of mission equipment, including an external rescue hoist, cargo hook with bambi bucket provision, weather radar, multi-band and satellite communication systems, high definition Forward Looking Infra-Red / Low Light TV (FLIR/LLTV) system, Leonardo's high definition mission console with digital recorder, high definition down link, Leonardo's Optical Proximity LiDAR System (OPLS), Night Vision Goggle (NGV) capability, new generation Trakka searchlight, emergency floatation system and external life rafts, external loudspeaker, medical rack and bubble windows. The aircraft also feature an advanced 4-axis autopilot perfectly suited for SAR operations, including over the sea.

### **Note to editors on the AW139 helicopter**

The 7 tonne AW139 design incorporates a large spacious cabin accessed by two sliding doors, powerful engines that deliver class leading performance and safety, making it the aircraft of choice in its weight class. Excellent one engine inoperative capability ensures the aircraft can

accomplish the most demanding missions while maintaining the ability to fly away safely in the rare event of an engine failure.

**In Italy the AW139 has also been selected by the Italy's Guardia di Finanza, State Police, Coast Guard and Air Force in addition to several emergency medical service operators.**

The various Italian Government agencies operating the AW139 are able to benefit from shared logistics, training and support systems. This latest order by the National Fire Corps, brings the **total number of AW139s chosen by all of these Italian Government operators to 61**, covering a wide scope of public utility roles including law enforcement and homeland security, patrol, special operations and anti-terrorism, search and rescue, firefighting, command and control, government/VVIP transport, disaster relief and training.

Many law enforcement and security agencies from countries around the world, including Italy, the UK, USA, Japan, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Sweden, Spain, Estonia, The Netherlands, Brazil, UAE, Oman and Croatia have selected or are already operating the AW139 to fulfil their requirements. **Over 270 customers from around 70 nations have already ordered over 1100 AW139s, more than 950 of which are in service, confirming itself as the bestselling aircraft in its category.**