



Press release

Leonardo and Italian National Alpine and Speleological Rescue Corps: renew cooperation agreement for a joint development on new capabilities

The helicopter is the indispensable rescue medical vehicle for mountain operations and hard environments. The Italian National Alpine and Speleological Rescue Corps and Leonardo work together on the development of even more effective technologies, solutions, and training

Rome, 9 July 2021 – The enhancement of existing technologies to save human lives and the development of new operative and training solutions make helicopter rescues more efficient and safer when deploying rescue personnel. These objectives form the renewed agreement between Leonardo and the Italian National Alpine and Speleological Rescue Corps (Corpo Nazionale Soccorso Alpino e Speleologico - CNSAS), which was signed for the first time in December 2016 and re-proposed for the next three years.

The two entities, Leonardo and the CNSAS, are a reference – at a local and international level - in the rescue sector covering mountains and inaccessible environments, the helicopter is now a strategic resource for saving lives whilst carrying out the most complex missions. In 2020 the Alpine Rescue team carried out the largest number of missions in the history of the Corps (over 10,000 in a year), and Leonardo constantly increases the mission capabilities of its latest generation products, AW139 and AW169, in terms of equipment and performance and support and training services for healthcare and emergency workers. The fight against Coronavirus has influenced everything and provided an extra challenge, the helicopter has been the main vehicle for numerous transport missions utilising special stretchers with biological containment, this was used for the first time in Italy and in the world on Leonardo's civil air ambulances.

Leaders from CNSAS and Leonardo Helicopters took part in today's ceremony, which took place close to the opening of the summer season at the Leonardo plant in Sesto Calende (VA) - home of the main Training Academy of the company where personnel assigned to helicopter rescue tasks are also trained from all over the world.

Ambitious objectives. The document signed today strengthens a cooperation that has been a reality for years, ever since the Alpine Rescue personnel started operating Leonardo helicopters. The three-year, renewable cooperation agreement entails setting up a joint working group, which aims to exchange technical-operative information for an appropriate assessment of Leonardo rescue aircraft models' technical specifications, mission equipment, and cabin layout for a further enhancement of efficiency and effectiveness. The two partners will also evaluate together the new rescue and adaptation techniques for helicopters to modern operational needs, as well as jointly developing the navigation, geolocation, and target mapping systems. The training activities will also include the techniques for using the rescue winch in combination with the use of the stretcher.

"The renewal of the agreement with Leonardo can only bring benefits to the entire emergency system and to the civil protection area in a broad sense - said the President of the Italian National Alpine and Speleological Rescue Corps Maurizio Dellantonio - Modern medical rescue calls for development of a multi-agency perspective, where specialised rescue forces are also able to interface with the world of research and industrial production, to guarantee citizens an excellent service ".

Gian Piero Cutillo, Managing Director of Leonardo Helicopters, declared: "Our Training Academy in Sesto Calende today represents the collaboration path we undertook together years ago. We have strongly renewed our shared commitment in the training of personnel assigned to delicate operations through a unique vehicle such as the helicopter, through the development of new solutions and capabilities, which allow the air ambulance to perform its task better and better. We will work together on new projects that will allow us to bring the fruits of these synergies on board of our products."

Italian National Alpine and Speleological Rescue Corps (Corpo Nazionale Soccorso Alpino e Speleologico - CNSAS) is a 7,000-strong body of specialists, in all Italian regions. It has been operating since 1963, completing about 8,000 rescue missions every year, many of which involve helicopters. It is a national operative Structure of the National Civil Protection Service and its primary purpose is to assure urgent medical rescue and civil protection activities, as expressly set forth by the Laws of the State. All technical operators follow a continuous training process by the National Schools, made up of technical instructors, medical and health instructors, dog trainers and other specialisations: the schools also study and develop innovative rescue techniques, which become an integral part of the training of all rescue workers.

Leonardo, a global high-technology company, is one of the world's major players in Aerospace, Defence and Security and Italy's main industrial company. Organised into five business divisions, Leonardo has a significant industrial presence in Italy, the United Kingdom, Poland and the USA, where it also operates through subsidiaries such as Leonardo DRS (defence electronics), and joint ventures and partnerships: ATR, MBDA, Telespazio, Thales Alenia Space and Avio. Leonardo competes in the most important international markets by leveraging its areas of technological and product leadership (Helicopters, Aircraft, Aerostructures, Electronics, Cyber Security and Space). Listed on the Milan Stock Exchange (LDO), in 2020 Leonardo reported consolidated revenues of €13.4 billion and invested €1.6 billion in Research and Development. The company has been part of the Dow Jones Sustainability Index (DJSI) since 2010 and has been confirmed as an industry leader in the Aerospace & Defence sector for the second year in a row in 2020.

Contacts:

Press Office CNSAS

Walter Milan

Phone. +39 3409037901

Mail: coordinamentostampa@cnsas.it

Web: www.cnsas.it

Facebook: www.facebook.com/soccorsoalpinocnsas

Twitter: [cnsas_official](https://twitter.com/cnsas_official)

Leonardo Press Office

Phone. +39 32473313

Mail: leonardopressoffice@leonardocompany.com

Web: leonardocompany.com