

## **Leonardo to join Ministry of Defence in major new strategic initiative to develop Next Generation Air Survivability equipment for UK military aircraft**

- **A new strategic partnering arrangement between Leonardo and the Ministry of Defence will further develop common protective systems for the Nation's military aircraft**
- **Under the arrangement, Leonardo will work with other onshore providers to bring together best-of-UK defensive technology and provide an integrated solution while ensuring value-for-money, boosting export opportunities and generating prosperity around the UK**
- **Leonardo already provides protective electronics for many UK Armed Forces aircraft from its research and manufacturing sites in Edinburgh and Luton, which employ thousands of highly-skilled scientists and engineers**

**Rome, 14 September 2021** - Leonardo has signed a Strategic Partnering Arrangement (SPA) with the Royal Air Force, Defence Equipment & Support (DE&S) and the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (Dstl). This will see the Company's UK arm working alongside the Ministry of Defence (MOD), Dstl's world-leading scientists and other UK industry partners to further develop platform-level integrated protection systems for UK aircraft. The Leonardo Modular Advanced Platform Protection System (MAPPS) controller, which exploits the NATO Defensive Aids System (NDAS) standard, will be at the heart of the system when equipping UK fleets with these capabilities.

Leonardo is the UK's onshore provider of integrated Air Platform Protection (APP) capabilities. The company already provides protective equipment for many UK Armed Forces aircraft from its research and manufacturing sites in Edinburgh and Luton, including for RAF Typhoons, Shadow R2 surveillance aircraft, E-7 Wedgetail airborne early warning aircraft and the majority of the UK's helicopter fleet including the AW159 Wildcat, AW101 Merlin and Apache AH-64E. Many of these involve Leonardo working with partners who provide key sub-systems and technologies.

The new SPA will see industry working proactively alongside the Armed Forces and MOD towards a shared vision of aircraft protection which is fit to meet the challenges of the future as well as the threats of today. Leonardo will work with other UK companies, bringing together advanced onshore technologies to develop common UK APP systems suitable for the UK's various fleets of aircraft.

Norman Bone, Chair and CEO of Leonardo UK, said: "The thousands of highly-skilled scientists and engineers we employ around the UK take great pride in researching, manufacturing and supporting the technology which keeps our Armed Forces safe. This new arrangement will see us further developing our partnerships with MOD and industry to ensure that our Armed Forces continue to be some of the best-protected in the world. It will also provide additional prosperity opportunities for the UK by creating desirable capabilities that can be exported internationally."

Air Vice-Marshal Lincoln Taylor OBE, Chief of Staff - Capability, Royal Air Force, said: "Assuring the safety and protection of our people and air assets provides the UK with operational independence. This strategic partnering arrangement with Leonardo, and in the future other industrial partners, will ensure that we maintain continued

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**Leonardo**, a global high-technology company, is among the top world players in Aerospace, Defence and Security and Italy's main industrial company. Organized 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 that include Leonardo DRS (defense 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 recorded 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 named as sustainability global leader in the Aerospace & Defence sector for the second year in a row of DJSI in 2020.

access to cutting-edge protective technology onshore in the UK, as well as providing industry with the confidence to invest in the next generation of advanced defence electronics.”

To further boost UK prosperity, under the SPA the MOD will support Leonardo to promote UK APP capabilities to partner nations that share similar requirements.

The new SPA is the second such arrangement between Leonardo and the UK MOD. The Company signed a 10-year SPA with the MOD in July 2016 which focusses on the development of future rotary wing platform requirements and export opportunities.

### **Inside the Modular Advanced Platform Protection System (MAPPS)**

The UK APP solution will incorporate equipment that can detect, identify and defeat threats to an aircraft. Leonardo’s electronic warfare experts in Luton will integrate the system, which will be controlled by the company’s smart defensive aids system computer, called the MAPPS controller. This can independently evaluate threats and automatically launch life-saving countermeasures.

Specific countermeasures will include Leonardo’s Miysis Directional InfraRed CounterMeasures (DIRCM) system, which uses high-powered laser beams to protect aircraft from heat-seeking missiles, and the company’s BriteCloud decoy, which uses advanced jamming to protect from radar-guided threats. Depending on the aircraft, the MAPPS system could include advanced radar warning and electronic surveillance measure capabilities and Leonardo will also draw on technologies from other UK-based companies in capability areas where they are leaders in their field.

Looking forward, a spiral development approach will see further research work leading to upgrades throughout the life of the SPA, ensuring that this world-leading equipment stays ahead of the threat. This will ensure that UK Forces maintain the freedom to operate when and wherever they are called upon.