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**PRESS RELEASE****Leonardo to enhance naval surveillance of Qatar**

***Leonardo will develop a Naval Operation Centre for coordinating operations at sea. The agreement falls in the framework of current MBDA programmes and activities in the Country***

***Technologies for a full at sea situational awareness, covering all spectrum of security, to support decisions and enhance cooperation with national agencies***

***With a strong presence onsite, which dates back since 25 years, Leonardo aims to strengthen its technological footprint, also thanks to the increasingly close strategic relations between Italy and Qatar***

**Doha, 22/03/2022** – Leonardo will provide the Qatari Emiri Naval Forces (QENF) with a Naval Operation Centre (NOC) to ensure monitoring and control of territorial water, Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and adjacent waters and, at the same time, to enhance cooperation with other national agencies in charge of maritime security. The Centre leverages on innovative systems and technologies as well as the full integration of air and maritime components. The announcement has been done today at DIMDEX, the flagship regional event for the international maritime defence and security, going on in Doha until March 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Under the agreement, the NOC will provide command, control and coordination of operations at sea allowing the Armed Force to carry out integrated monitoring by exploiting the high level of cooperation between all the sensors on the field. QENF will thus have a full integrated situational awareness to support all operational and tactical stakeholders' decision making process and rapid interventions along the entire chain of command.

Leonardo is playing a key role in the protection of Qatar. Its presence in the Country dates back since almost 25 years. Maritime domain is a strong focus for the company, which is equipping, also as combat system integrator, the Navy's new ships with its naval capabilities, ranging from turnkey combat management systems for all classes of military vessels, to naval defence systems.

This important success, which further strengthens the cooperation between the Armed Forces and the industry of the two countries, has been achieved thanks to the company's consolidated experience in the design and development of systems capable of guaranteeing cooperation between all platforms – air, land naval, surface and submarine, manned and unmanned - under the supervision of operational centres, in order to enable effective mission planning.

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**Leonardo**, a high-tech global company, is one of the top companies in the world in the sector of Aerospace, Defence and Security and the leading Italian industrial company. Organised in five commercial divisions, Leonardo has a significant industrial presence in Italy, the United Kingdom, Poland and the USA where it also operates with subsidiaries such as Leonardo DRS (defence electronics) and some joint ventures and investment stakes: ATR with Airbus, MBDA defence systems, Telespazio, Thales Alenia Space and Avio aerospace. Leonardo competes in the most important international markets in its areas of technological and product leadership (Helicopters; Aircraft; Airframes; Electronics; Cyber Security and Space). Listed on the Milan Stock Exchange (abbreviated as LDO), in 2020 Leonardo recorded consolidated income of 13.4 billion euros and invested 1.6 billion euros in Research and Development. The company has been included in the Dow Jones Sustainability Indices (DJSI) since 2010, also proving to be one of the global leaders in sustainability in 2021. Leonardo is also included in the MIB ESG Milan stock market index for environmental, social and governance principles.

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