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PRESS NOTE

BULGARIAN AIR FORCE LAUNCHES MAJOR C-27J SPARTAN FLEET UPGRADE TO FURTHER ENHANCE MISSION CAPABILITIES AND EFFECTIVENESS

Sofia, 23 November 2026 - Leonardo has been awarded a contract to deliver a major avionics upgrade for the Bulgarian Air Force's C-27J Spartan transport aircraft fleet.

The contract further strengthens Leonardo's long-standing partnership with Bulgaria, developed over almost two decades across a number of programmes.

The upgrade will include state-of-the-art equipment and new capabilities to enable the aircraft to meet current and future operational requirements. The improvements include a redesigned human interface to increase situational awareness, advanced navigation and surveillance technology, and upgraded communications system.

The modernisation programme is a major step forward in ensuring the long-term operational effectiveness of the three aircraft fleet. It will bring the fleet into line with evolving military and civil aviation standards, improving operational readiness, mission effectiveness, safety and interoperability.

Today, the C-27J has 22 operators worldwide, with more than 100 aircraft ordered and almost 300,000 accumulated flight hours. The aircraft has consistently demonstrated its reliability, durability and versatility in demanding environments around the world, from the high-altitude Andes to the hot and humid conditions of the Asia-Pacific. This impressive track record is testament not only to the C-27J's capabilities but to the sustained customer support and excellent service provided by Leonardo.

Leonardo is an international industrial group that develops multi-domain technological capabilities for global security. A key player in the major strategic programmes in Aerospace, Defence and Security, it employs over 62,000 people worldwide and operates in the Electronics, Helicopters, Aircraft, Cyber & Security and Space sectors. The company has a significant industrial presence in Italy, the United Kingdom, Poland and the United States, and is active in 150 countries also through subsidiaries, joint ventures and investees. Leonardo is a technological and industrial partner to Governments, Defence Administrations, Institutions and businesses. Listed on the Milan Stock Exchange (LDO), in 2025 Leonardo recorded new orders of €23.8 billion, an order backlog of €46.6 billion and consolidated revenues of €19.5 billion. Included in the MIB ESG Index, the company has also been part of the Dow Jones Sustainability Indices (DJSI) since 2010.