

Avio joins F136 Lightning II engine programme

Italian aero engine maker Avio signed an agreement yesterday at Farnborough to join General Electric and Rolls-Royce in developing the F136 engine for the Lockheed Martin F-35A Lightning II Joint Strike Fighter (JSF).

Under the deal, Avio will initially supply eleven parts for the engine during the

system development and demonstration phase. It plans to begin development activities in the latter half of 2006 and will deliver the first of 17 prototypes for initial bench tests in the first quarter of 2008.

The contract also provides for Avio's long-term involvement in the programme throughout the engine's life-span.

Although the future of the F136 is still unclear, following the US Department of Defense's plans to remove its budget from 2007, the deal is a sign the partners are confident the decision will be reversed.

The Senate Appropriations Committee, one of several US committees ruling on the programme's fate, is expected to have made

an announcement last night after *Flight Daily News* went to press, but a final decision on the F136's future will not be delivered until September at the earliest.

The F136 team cannot afford to fall further behind the rival Pratt & Whitney F135 engine, three years ahead of the F136 in development.

ROUND UP



Shake on it: Gilles Fournier, Damien Lassou & Fabrice Galzin.

Accenture to sponsor Paris airshow

Global consulting and technology services company Accenture is poised to become the main sponsor of the 47th Paris international airshow in 2007.

"We are very proud to be so closely associated with such a prestigious event," said Sherman Baldwin, Accenture's global senior executive for aerospace and defence.

"Accenture continues to play a major role in the success of many of the world's most high profile aerospace and defence projects."

Paris airshow managing director Gilles Fournier and Accenture's Damien Lassou met up at the French Aerospace Industries Association (Gifas) Pavillion (Hall 1, B18) yesterday to discuss the deal.

Galileo wins repeat order for Typhoon IRST

Galileo Avionica has won a contract to supply the Passive Infrared Airborne Tracking Equipment (PIRATE) infrared search and track (IRST) for the second tranche of Eurofighter Typhoons for the UK, Spain and Italy. The Finmeccanica subsidiary will supply 200 PIRATE systems in a deal worth 120 million (\$150m).

This follows an earlier contract with EADS to supply the first tranche of aircraft with the sensor.

Selex signs DIRCM deal

Northrop Grumman and Selex Sensors and Airborne Systems (OE2) signed a nine-year contract for the manufacture and development of infrared countermeasure systems.

The alliance will strengthen collaboration in the manufacture and sale of Northrop's Directional Infrared Countermeasures (DIRCM) systems such as the AN/AAQ-24(V) Nemesis and Guardian systems.

It will continue a decade-long relationship.

PILATUS

WELCOME
OUTSIDE THE BOX!

You're familiar with life inside the box – the frustration as you queue for check-in, transfers and customs clearance, the discomfort, the delays, the waste of time and energy. In short, you're not in control.

But there is a world outside the box: you set the pace, you decide the schedule, you pick the destination from over 1,500 airports in Europe alone. With the PC-12 you are in control, and that means more creativity, more productivity, more freedom, more space and time to think – for you and your family. Not to mention the exhilaration of flying in the privacy of your own plane at 270 knots and 30,000 feet.

Pilatus Aircraft Ltd
Call us on +41 41 619 62 96
www.pilatus-aircraft.com