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Minister for Defence Equipment, Support and Technology opens new Bristol office of Finmeccanica company, SELEX Systems Integration

Bristol, 21 March 2011 – Minister for Defence Equipment, Support and Technology, Mr Peter Luff MP, today officially opened the new Bristol office of Finmeccanica company, SELEX Systems Integration Ltd, and visited the company's new state of the art Centre of Excellence.

The building, which also acts as a Bristol base for SELEX Systems Integration subsidiary VEGA Consulting Services Ltd, and sister Finmeccanica company SELEX Galileo, is home to 200 dedicated UK defence and security professionals. The building's Centre of Excellence developed by SELEX Systems Integration, provides visitors with an opportunity to experience the very latest technological innovation on offer from across the UK Finmeccanica companies in support of the national defence and security challenges.

Situated adjacent to the UK Ministry of Defence (MOD)'s procurement headquarters, Abbey Wood, the office is also within easy reach of the UK's intelligence centre, GCHQ. Its proximity to such key installations ensures SELEX Systems Integration and VEGA continue to work in close partnership with the UK MOD and the extended intelligence community to develop cost-effective front-line capability including information superiority, cyber security, air-defence systems, and through-life training solutions.

Mr Luff was hosted by Marina Grossi, CEO of SELEX Sistemi Integrati, the parent company of SELEX Systems Integration; David Gould, Executive Chairman of SELEX Systems Integration; and Alberto de Benedictis, Chief Executive of Finmeccanica in the UK.

On opening the office, Mr Luff congratulated SELEX Systems Integration on its choice of location and the company's commitment to the defence sector as part of Finmeccanica in the UK. The Minister said: *"I am delighted to have been asked to open the new Bristol offices of Finmeccanica Company, SELEX Systems Integration. The success of our Defence industry is important to the UK's economy, and indeed the defence and security of the country and its people. SELEX Systems Integration's investment in Bristol, close to the headquarters of MOD Defence Equipment and Support is a welcome demonstration of the company's continued commitment to the UK Defence industry"*.

CEO of SELEX Sistemi Integrati, Marina Grossi, expressed her satisfaction with the Bristol Centre of Excellence: *"The opening of this new centre, which mirrors the successful facility already established in the company's headquarters in Rome, provides a further opportunity to display the company's capabilities in designing and realising large systems for the civil and military security domains. It represents a centre of technological excellence which demonstrates to visitors how the company's systems capabilities can benefit a wide variety of missions."*

Executive Chairman of SELEX Systems Integration, David Gould, thanked the Minister for officially opening the new office and Centre of Excellence, adding: *“We are extremely honoured that the Minister has taken the time to visit our new offices and Centre of Excellence. The location of the office and our investment in innovation will, I believe, enable the company to continue working closely with our defence and security clients, developing valuable and effective solutions to support the UK’s defence and security challenges. We look forward to welcoming many more guests visiting us in the coming months.”*

Notes to the editor:

Abbey Wood is home to the MOD’s Defence Equipment and Support (DE&S) community. The facility, the largest MOD site in the UK with over 7,000 people, was opened in 1996 as a base for the MOD’s procurement executive departments. The DE&S staff manage procurement for the British Army, Royal Navy and Royal Air Force.

Finmeccanica is a world-leading technology company, operating globally in the aerospace, and defence and security markets. With an international workforce of over 73,000 people and revenues in excess of €18 billion, Finmeccanica is one of the foremost suppliers of helicopters, aircraft, aeronautics and defence systems, as well as a European leader in space, security, resilience, transportation and power generation solutions. With over 10,000 employees in the UK operating from 10 major sites across the country, Finmeccanica is currently the UK MOD’s second largest defence equipment supplier.

SELEX Sistemi Integrati, a Finmeccanica company, designs and develops Large Systems for Homeland Protection, systems and radar for air defence, battlefield management, naval warfare, air traffic control, coastal and maritime surveillance. Fifty years of experience in system integration have created a customer base in no less than 150 countries. SELEX Sistemi Integrati has complete mastery of the advanced technologies involved – the company’s true wealth and expertise – as well as an extensive commercial offer of state-of-the-art solutions and products, backed up by full logistic support. With about 4,500 employees and plants in Italy, the UK, Germany and the USA, SELEX Sistemi Integrati is a leader in research and development thanks to annual investments amounting to 20% of the production value.

SELEX Systems Integration is a dedicated Solution Architect and Systems Integration business, and the UK subsidiary of SELEX Sistemi Integrati SpA. It manages the delivery of technology investment programmes in complex operational and safety-critical environments. The company currently provides Post Design Services (PDS) in support of the UK MOD’s fleet of over 40 Operational Watchman Radars. Additionally, the company supports through-life training solutions for UK platforms such as Eurofighter Typhoon, Apache Attack Helicopter, and Titan and Trojan. As part of the UK Thales team, the company is delivering the training solution for the WATCHKEEPER TUAV programme. SELEX Systems Integration is also a member of the joint MOD / Industry CBRN Transformation programme.

VEGA Consulting Services, a SELEX Systems Integration subsidiary, is a professional services company that delivers technology-enabled change in complex environments, often where security and resilience are key. The company has over 20 years' experience delivering secure communication and information systems across the military and extended intelligence community. This domain knowledge and technological expertise positions VEGA as a trusted partner for the most demanding cyber security and information assurance challenges both across Government and at the front-line. The company is currently providing support to UK forces in Afghanistan and the MOD organisations that provide information superiority services.

Further information

For further information, please contact either:

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