

DRS Technologies, Alenia Aeronautica Announce Development of Portable Maintenance Unit for C-27J

DRS Technologies and Alenia Aeronautica, both Finmeccanica companies, announce the joint development of a portable maintenance unit specially designed for the C-27J tactical military airlifter, for testing of onboard aircraft systems, loading of aircraft software, supporting ground maintenance and training activities.

Through market research, Alenia Aeronautica found and tested various systems to find a rugged mobile solutions provider capable of delivering a portable maintenance support unit and DRS Technologies answered with its ARMOR™ X10gx tablet PC. This product has performed throughout various trials and demonstrations and has been selected by Alenia Aeronautica.

Currently DRS is customizing the new ARMOR™ X10gx tablet PC to reduce the use of external components thereby increasing the integrated system's capabilities for use on the Alenia Aeronautica C-27J cargo aircraft.

This Portable Maintenance Unit (PMU), used for several applications, is capable of capturing and displaying technical documentation, providing interactive training for users, displaying aircraft's three-dimensional models, carrying out ground analyses of flight data, searching for damages, loading onboard software, and recording electrical and digital measurements in hostile operational conditions.

The PMU is similar in size to an A4-format sheet of paper and weighs about 2 kg with a sunlight readable display. Certified to MIL-STD-810G and IP67, the unit is extremely rugged and capable of surviving drops and vibration, extreme hot and cold temperatures and high humidity, and is fully sealed providing protection from the intrusion of water and sand.

Alenia Aeronautica is already offering the ARMOR™ X10gx PMU on some C-27J airplanes for logistics support, in replacement of the previous Portable Maintenance Aid system which was heavier and provided less capability in the form of its interface and reporting function.