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PRESS RELEASE

## Leonardo and Wojskowe Zakłady Lotnicze No. 1 S.A. (WZL1) contract for long-term support of Polish M-346 “Bielik” fleet.

**Warsaw, 17/02/2023** – Leonardo and Wojskowe Zakłady Lotnicze Nr 1 S.A. (WZL1), part of the PGZ Group, have signed a contract for the long-term support of the Polish Air Force M-346 “Bielik” fleet, improving the existing cooperation.

Leveraging on Leonardo’s significant knowledge and support experience with a global customer base, WZL1’s long experience in supporting the operation of aircraft and systems belonging to the Polish Armed Forces – not to mention the extensive technical, logistic and infrastructural facilities of WZL1 close to the home base of operations for the AJT system - the service support agreement will allow for further increase in fleet availability in order to meet Polish Air Force’s growing needs of training combat pilots.

Leonardo, as the original equipment manufacturer (OEM), will be responsible for the engineering support services resulting from its role in the operation system and supply chain management. WZL1 will act as the main contractor, coordinating the entire process, complementing and supporting areas by which Leonardo is not directly involved. WZL1 is also responsible for direct cooperation with the end user.

Leonardo also cooperates with WZL1, on the basis of separate agreements, in the process of training and establishing maintenance and repair competences at Wojskowe Zakłady Lotnicze No. 1 S.A. to support the operation of M-346 aircraft with the AJT system.

The experience derived from the support system for the operation of the global fleet of M-346 aircraft aims to guarantee the entire Logistics Support System of “Bielik” high process efficiency and technical and logistic support in the training system. The above thanks to Leonardo’s predictive maintenance approach and the technical and commercial cooperation with WZL1 as an experienced service provider according to global aviation standards.

Dario Marfè, SVP Commercial and Customer Services at Leonardo Aircraft Division, said: “With more than 100,000 hours flown, the cutting-edge M-346 has cemented its position as the world’s best advanced jet trainer for today’s and tomorrow’s fighter pilots. At the forefront of jet training technology, the M-346 will continue to represent the best way to develop a fighter pilot’s skills for decades to come. This agreement strengthens Leonardo’s partnership with WZL1, creating new opportunities to transfer additional activities in Poland, in accordance with a proven and flexible logistic support model that Leonardo has established in several countries, which foresees a transfer of capabilities to local defence industries.”

In February 2014, the Polish Air Force chose the M-346 as the successor to the legendary TS-11 Iskra training aircraft. Then in November 2018, in a ceremony at the Polish Air Force’s 4th Air Training Wing in Dęblin, the M-346 received the official name “Bielik” in Polish service. Since its introduction into the Polish Air Force fleet, the M-346 has been assigned to the 41st Training Air Base in Dęblin. The current fleet of 16 aircraft is the result of two additional batches after Poland’s initial choice.

Poland’s M-346 “Bielik” system has also been certified by the US Air Force for the training of fourth and fifth generation fighter pilots, an important milestone that has enabled Poland to train many of its students at home rather than abroad.

More than 100 M-346 aircraft have been ordered by major international air forces including those of Italy, Israel, Poland, Singapore, Qatar, and Greece. The aircraft is also the backbone of the International Flight Training School (IFTS), a collaboration between Leonardo and the Italian Air Force, which has already been selected by Japan, Germany, Qatar, and Singapore.

**Leonardo**, a global high-technology company, is among the top world players in Aerospace, Defense and Security and Italy's main industrial company. Organized into five business divisions, Leonardo has a significant industrial presence in Italy, the United Kingdom, Poland and the USA, where it also operates through subsidiaries that include Leonardo DRS (defense electronics), and joint ventures and partnerships: ATR, MBDA, Telespazio, Thales Alenia Space and Avio. Leonardo competes in the most important international markets by leveraging its areas of technological and product leadership (Helicopters, Aircraft, Aerostructures, Electronics, Cyber & Security Solutions and Space). Listed on the Milan Stock Exchange (LDO), in 2021 Leonardo recorded consolidated revenues of €14.1 billion and invested €1.8 billion in Research and Development. The company has been part of the Dow Jones Sustainability Indices (DJSI) since 2010 and has been confirmed among the global sustainability leaders in 2022. Leonardo is also included in the MIB ESG index.

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