



Thales signs first contract with Dassault Aviation for through-life support of Rafale avionics

Neuilly-sur-Seine, 2 February 2010 – Thales today announced that it has signed a contract with Dassault Aviation to provide maintenance support for avionics equipment on Rafale combat aircraft in service with the French armed forces. This ten-year fixed-price contract includes a range of extended services.

The avionics support agreement with Thales flows from the comprehensive Rafale through-life support contract awarded to Dassault Aviation by SIMMAD⁽¹⁾ in late 2008 under a similar arrangement, with an initial five-year tranche followed by five further optional tranches of one year each.

Pierre-Eric Pommellet, Thales Senior Vice President in charge of aerospace businesses, stated: *“The contract is the first of its kind for this type of equipment, with a fixed price per hour of flight adding new extended services such as obsolescence management”*.

This new contract is part of Thales’s innovative approach to service provision, based on end-to-end support solutions with guaranteed levels of operational availability. *“We are continuing to tailor our services to match the evolving requirements of the armed forces while reducing the overall cost of support,”* Pommellet added.

Thales is also drawing on its experience with the French armed forces to serve export customers. The company’s comprehensive support solutions are meeting with increasing success in these markets.

(1) SIMMAD is the Defence aircraft joint in-service support organisation. It is the maintenance arm of the French Air Force with responsibility for joint forces operations, and receives its directives from the Chief of the Defence Staff).

About Thales

Thales is a global technology leader for the Aerospace and Space, Defence, Security and Transportation markets. In 2008, the company generated revenues of 12.7 billion euros with 68,000 employees in 50 countries. With its 25,000 engineers and researchers, Thales has a unique capability to design, develop and deploy equipment, systems and services that meet the most complex security requirements. Thales has an exceptional international footprint, with operations around the world working with customers as local partners. www.thalesgroup.com

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