

MARE GROUP AEROSPACE & DEFENCE: LEONARDO HELICOPTERS' NGCTR-TD TILTROTOR PROTOTYPE “FIRST FLIGHT” MILESTONE ACHIEVED

- Mare Group's engineering on rotor wing, control surfaces, fuel storage and flight controls
- Mare Group involved in 4 consortia with a total budget of €33 million out of the NGCTR-TD programme's overall €130 million

Salerno, 2 March 2026

Mare Group S.p.A. (ticker **MARE.MI**), an engineering company listed on Euronext Growth Milan and active in Italy and abroad in innovation through enabling technologies (“**Mare Group**”, the “**Company**”), announces that, during the Horizon Europe European Partnerships Infoday dedicated to Call 4 of the Clean Aviation Joint Undertaking, held in Rome on 27 February 2026, it presented the outlook of the Clean Aviation Joint Undertaking and the progress of activities within the European Clean Sky 2 programmes, illustrating the recent advancement of Leonardo Helicopters' Next Generation Civil Tiltrotor Technology Demonstrator (“**NGCTR-TD**”).

On 25 February 2026, the prototype successfully completed its first flight, following ground qualification of the prototype, for validation by the funding body (Clean Aviation Joint Undertaking) and by the regulatory authority (EASA).

The NGCTR-TD programme began in 2014 with a total investment of over €130 million for the development of the technical demonstrator. Having joined the programme in 2016, Mare Group led and integrated four strategic European consortia (DEFENDER, T-WING, SMAR-TeR and SAIS) for a cumulative budget of €33 million. The Company's engineering contribution focused on critical components of the tiltrotor: the fuel storage system, the rotor wing, control surfaces, the engine mount frame and flight controls (inceptor), key architectures that enabled the demonstrator to obtain flight clearance from EASA and Clean Aviation.

Luigi Di Palma, Direttore Generale of Mare Group, stated: “*The transition from demonstrator to flight is the point at which research becomes industrial engineering. At the Rome Infoday, a clear message emerged: the next calls will reward those who can manage this transformation. In programmes such as Clean Aviation, mid-caps can be a driver of success, because they combine critical mass and speed of execution: they integrate systems, coordinate partners and help push technologies towards the maturity needed to reach the market, working alongside prime contractors such as Leonardo Helicopters.*”



This press release is available on the Company's website <https://www.maregroup.it/investor-relations> and on the authorised system for the dissemination and storage of regulated information "1INFO" available at <https://www.1info.it/>, "1Market" section.

Mare Group

With a history dating back to 2001, Mare Group is an Italian High-Tech Engineering Hub active in strategic sectors such as Aerospace and Defense, Industry, Critical Infrastructure, and the Twin Transition, with over 2,000 customers. Listed on Euronext Growth Milan, the Group operates through an asset-light model based on proprietary platforms, thanks to over 700 people, 32 locations across 5 countries, and the experience of more than 30 research projects completed with Italian and foreign Universities. The 19 acquisitions and subsequent integrations carried out since 2019 make Mare Group one of the main innovation aggregators in Italy and Europe.

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