

Leonardo introduces new M-40 target drone at Paris Air Show

- **The M-40 provides medium-to-high performance at a cost comparable with entry-level competing target drones**
- **Leonardo's Mirach-family drones are the standard threat simulators of Armed Forces around the world including France, Italy and the UK**
- **A number of design enhancements, such as the removal of all pyrotechnics, mean that the M-40 is readily exportable and benefits from low through-life-costs**

Rome, 16 June 2017 – Leonardo introduces its new aerial target drone to the market at the 2017 Paris Air Show. Based on the company's experience with its successful 'Mirach 100/5' target drone which has earned a place as the standard threat simulator of international Armed Forces including France, Italy and the UK, the new 'Mirach 40' (M-40) is designed to provide medium-to-high performance at a price comparable with competitors' entry-level drones.

The M-40 is a remotely-piloted aerial system (RPAS) that supports Armed Forces training by simulating a range of airborne threat targets. Able to convincingly mimic a variety of aircraft and missiles, the target drone can simulate radar, infrared (IR) and visual threats. This allows Armed Forces to 'shoot down' the reusable M-40 in realistic scenarios, allowing them to train with and qualify a wide variety of weapon systems. Developed in-house by Leonardo using commercial components, the M-40 is readily exportable around the world.

Responding to the fact that customers worldwide increasingly need to 'do more with less', the M-40 builds on Leonardo's experience with the Mirach 100/5 to offer a majority of the performance of such a model at a significantly reduced cost. The M-40 is suitable for a range of training purposes, from Ground Based Air Defence (GBAD) artillery training to the simulation of high-performance aerial threats for Navy and Air Force training. Leonardo will also continue to offer the Mirach 100/5 alongside the M-40 to simulate the highest-performance threats facing modern Air Forces. The M-40 uses the same ground control station as the Mirach 100/5, meaning that pilots need very little training to switch to the new drone and armed forces can operate mixed fleets of M-40 and Mirach 100/5 drones.

Because the new M-40 inherits the flight characteristics of the proven Mirach 100/5, it comes with a versatile range of high-performance features including a low-altitude 'sea skimming' capability and the ability to execute high-G maneuvers, both uncommon in comparatively-priced competing systems. The refined aerodynamics of the M-40 also allows it to exceed the speed of most twin-engine systems, despite employing a single commercial, multi-fuel engine. The use of a single engine also reduces maintenance requirements and allows for easier deployment even at very remote training ranges. To ensure that M-40 is easy to store and transport, it is designed to operate without pyrotechnics, even for launch and parachute deployment.