



Edinburgh, 21 April 2011

SELEX Galileo wins Queen's Award for second year running

SELEX Galileo, a Finmeccanica company, is delighted to announce that its Edinburgh site has won a Queen's Award for Enterprise in the Innovation category.

This is the second consecutive year that SELEX Galileo, Edinburgh has been presented with Britain's highest commercial honour. The award is conferred in three main categories: International Trade, Innovation and Sustainable Development.

SELEX Galileo won the award for its novel approach to the design and production of targeting laser systems used by military aircraft. The lasers are used to designate targets accurately, allowing precision delivery of weapons to help protect ground forces and minimise collateral damage. The Company has steadily increased laser sales over the past five years and is now a leader in the high energy laser market in the United States.

A high level of modularity has been integrated into the design of the lasers, reducing the cost of manufacture while providing the customer with a more compact, lightweight laser configuration than those currently offered by competitive systems.

Alastair Morrison, Senior Vice President, Radar and Advanced Targeting, said: 'I would like to express my admiration for the quality of collaborative teamwork in lasers which has enabled us to make the necessary leaps forward in innovation in terms of our design and manufacture. I am particularly pleased that this award recognises contributions from the totality of the business and not just from a single function.'

SELEX Galileo's innovative approach extends much further than the initial design stage of the laser systems, incorporating manufacture, cross-functional working partnerships, supply chain relationships and daily working behaviours.

In an example of innovative working practice, engineers were embedded in manufacturing areas, allowing production teams to provide the engineers with instant feedback on the impact of their designs. In addition, the application of lean manufacturing principles led to a dramatic reduction in touch times and an increase in output of 66 per cent.

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