

# FITS **News** S

Nº2

MILITARY TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT



## Fits is the undisputed leader for modernising the P-3 Orion



*The Spanish Air Force is the first operator of the FITS (Fully Integrated Tactical System), core of the mission system modernisation of anti-submarine P-3 Orion aircraft.*





# Spanish Air Force P-3B Modernisation

*The programme began in December 2000 with the signing of the modernisation contract.*

The FITS integrates, controls and presents all the information provided by the complex equipment selected by the Spanish Air Force. This equipment includes: a search radar, FLIR, ESM, acoustic subsystem and datalink, among others.

During the preliminary and critical reviews, held respectively in October 2001 and February 2002, all the relevant aspects of the design of the new mission system were studied in detail.

## The P-3 enters the shop

The time has come for the new system design to be implemented. This will take place with the arrival of the



first P-3 aircraft at the EADS CASA facilities in Getafe (Madrid).

The Prototype Shop will carry out the modifications and assemble the mission system into the first of these aircraft.

## Delivery calendar

Likewise, all of the functional and acceptance tests will be carried out on the new weapon system at the Getafe facilities. It is planned for the first modified airplane to be delivered to the Spanish Air Force in September 2003.



# FITS in the world

Ten countries have already been visited by the C-295 MSA/MPA at aeronautical shows as well as during evaluations by the corresponding operators of maritime patrol aircraft. These countries are: Brazil, France, Germany, Oman, Portugal, Saudi Arabia, Sweden, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, and United States of America.



Montijo Air Base (Portugal)

## The C-295 MSA/MPA in Portugal

The C-295 aircraft visited Montijo Air Base No. 6, where Squadron 601 of the Portuguese Air Force is located and operates six P-3P Orion aircraft.

The crews of these aircraft had the opportunity to become familiar with and successfully evaluate the operation and characteristics of the CASA FITS system and of carrying out a standard patrol mission over the Atlantic.

The result of the evaluation was completely satisfactory as Lieutenant Colonel Luis Durães described «the outstanding characteristics of the tactical system as well as its ease of handling» (Montijo 2002).



### Modernisation of the P-3 Mission System

The flight carried out with personnel of the Portuguese Air Force was a unique opportunity to share experiences and to present the characteristics of the new mission tactical systems that will update the veteran anti-submarine aircraft, which, as is the Portuguese case, will undergo a modernisation and upgrade process.



## ILA 2002

The C-295 MSA/MPA aircraft was presented as a static demonstration at the ILA 2002 aeronautical show. Spanish representation at the show by the C-295 was shared with the C-101 and C-212 aircraft of the Spanish Air Force.

Numerous participants in the exhibition visited the aircraft. A standout among the visitors were some of those responsible for the Italian-German Maritime Patrol aircraft programme who praised the

high level of development and maturity of the EADS CASA mission system as well as its characteristics and functionalities.





# Modernisation of P-3 Orion

*The Brazilian Air Force is immersed in the selection process to modernise eight P-3 A Orion aircraft that will allow them to recover their anti-submarine activity that they had to abandon in 1995 when they decommissioned the P-16 (S-2) aircraft that carried out these types of missions.*

**T**he P-3 A recently acquired will be modernised through a process that covers different areas: the replacement of mission sensors with modern equipment and the installation of a tactical system that integrates these sensors and the aircraft navigation and communication equipment. In this way the anti-submarine operation effectiveness will be increased.

Besides the modernisation of the mission system, a complete structural and systems revitalisation of the aircraft will be carried out, enabling the aircraft to fly for another 20 years.

EADS CASA with its experience in this field is involved in the main programmes for modernisation of mission systems and P-3 Orion aircraft.



*Organised by the Brazilian Air Force*

## First Anti-submarine Warfare Seminar

**E**ADS CASA participated in the first International Anti-submarine Warfare Seminar organised by the Second

Air Corp of the Brazilian Air Force and the magazine Força Aérea that took place in Salvador de Bahía.

The seminar drew together an important number of ASW operators from different countries such as Brazil, Chile, France, Italy, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom and United States, and has allowed to share experiences and knowledge between these Anti-submarine operators.



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