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PRESS NOTE

Novel defence technologies compete to win SELEX Galileo's Innovation Awards

Several of the Company's best new ideas were on show at SELEX Galileo's 2009 Innovation Awards. The event, which this year took place at the Company's Basildon site, is designed to highlight the value the Company places on research and innovation among its employees.

The first place winner of the SELEX Galileo awards will participate in the Finmeccanica Innovation awards which in 2008 were hosted at SELEX Galileo's Edinburgh site. In 2008, SELEX Galileo won the Finmeccanica award with the 'UK MoD Grand Challenge – Team Stellar' project.

The Innovation Awards are open to all employees working for the company, not just those involved in research or high-tech engineering. The company believes that every employee is capable of changing the business with an inspired idea.

Product and process innovation can lead directly to competitive advantage in the high technology sector. Each year the event generates new ideas and projects that go on to result in real industrial applications and create value across the Company.

6 projects were down selected as finalists at this year's awards:

1. **New Sensor Technique to detect Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs).** Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) are the most pressing threat to armed forces on operations in Afghanistan. This innovation addresses this issue with a novel solution.
2. **New Sensor System to detect hostile fire aimed at aircraft.** A patented concept using an array of acoustic sensors attached to the surface of an aircraft to detect both the impact and near miss of hostile fire. This system helps solve a major operational issue for low flying combat helicopters.
3. **Electro-Optics – Grenade launcher Fire Control System (FCS) dramatically increases accuracy.** The SCORPIO is one of the equipments of the Italian Soldato del Futuro: it maximises the probability of hitting moving or stationary targets with a variety of grenade types. The system is the first portable FCS to acquire target distance with a laser ranger finder, and the ballistic computer does all calculations and adjustment for the user so that they can concentrate on their environment, leading to very fast response times. The system is expected to be widely used by the Italian army, and has attracted the interest of other international customers.
4. **Rotating Image OPO.** A new Optical Parametric Oscillator (OPO) to replace an existing design used in our military laser products. This patented design has both improved the laser beam quality and production yield.

5. **Space – Mars soil to be analysed by miniaturised instrument.** A miniaturised spectrometric instrument called ‘Ma_Miss’ has been developed to analyse the properties of the soil of the Martian landscape. Novel engineering and manufacturing processes led to a device that is small enough to be integrated inside the drill of a rover operating on the surface of the planet, making it a key part of the European Space Agency’s Exomars mission.

6. **Electro-optics – gun laying system improves accuracy, reduces difficulty of tracking.** The “Effortless Gun Laying System” is an algorithm has been designed to assist a gun operator with tracking targets, increasing the performance of any manual system of tracking with the minimum time and cost. It is especially beneficial under difficult conditions such as when both the user’s vehicle and the target are moving. In 2008, the system was introduced on the Centauro system proposed to the Portuguese army, and attained results comparable with much more complex systems despite being a numerical algorithm that can be inserted into a standard control system.

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