Snecma (Safran) and Rolls-Royce welcome continuation of joint combat engine studies

Courcouronnes, France – February 3rd, 2013. Snecma (Safran) and Rolls-Royce have welcomed the decision by the Governments of the UK and France to support further studies into the next generation of UK and French combat aircraft engines.

The two companies will continue to work on this programme through their 50:50 Rolls-Royce Snecma Ltd joint venture, established in 2001. Rolls-Royce and Snecma will continue to explore propulsion system concepts and technologies as part of the Anglo French Future Combat Air Systems (FCAS) Demonstration Programme Preparation Phase contract.

Since the announcement of the studies in July 2012, Rolls-Royce and Snecma have agreed workshare on the programme based on the relative technological strengths of each company. Studies have focused on developing engine technologies that will be required to power the FCAS demonstrator and generate significant electrical power for the aircraft's sensors and systems.

Didier Desnoyer, Snecma Vice President and General Manager, Military Engines, said: "We are pleased that our two governments have confirmed the continuation of this programme. Our teams are focused on delivering the highest capabilities from France and UK in Defense Propulsion Domain and meeting the challenging expectations of this programme both on technical aspects and affordability."

Bob Stoddart, Rolls-Royce President, Customer Business – Defence, said: "We welcome the support of the Governments of the UK and France in this programme at a time where budgets are challenged. Continuing this programme will enable us to further develop and retain critical defence propulsion system technologies that will sustain leading edge operational capability in the UK and France."

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Snecma is part of Safran, an international high-technology group with three core businesses: aerospace, defence and security. Snecma designs, builds and sells propulsion systems for air and space, including a wide range of commercial engines that are powerful, reliable, economical and environmentally-friendly, led by the global best-seller CFM56 and the new-generation LEAP*. The company also makes world-class military aircraft engines, as well as rocket propulsion systems and equipment for satellites and launch vehicles. Snecma is a leading provider of maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) services for civil and military aircraft engines, under the new EngineLife® brand, offering comprehensive support for customers around the world.

*CFM56 and LEAP engines are produced and marketed by CFM International, a 50/50 joint company of Snecma (Safran), France and GE of the United States.

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