

ALENIA AERMACCHI FLIES ITS 7,000th AIRCRAFT

The 7,000th aircraft built by Alenia Aermacchi, a Finmeccanica company, made its maiden flight yesterday. The milestone was reached by an MB-339CM during a test flight in preparation for delivery to the Royal Malaysian Air Force.

«The first flight of a newly built aircraft is always of professional interest to a test pilot. In this case, knowing the place that the other 6,999 Aermacchi aircraft hold in aviation history also made it emotionally significant», said Alenia Aermacchi Test Pilot Matteo Maurizio.

The 7,000th Alenia Aermacchi aircraft is the sixth from the Malaysian contract signed in late 2006 and belongs to the “MB” jet trainer family built by Aermacchi to the designs of Ermanno Bazzocchi and sold in 20 countries worldwide. Completion of the deliveries to Malaysia will make the MB family cross the symbolic 1,000 aircraft threshold.

«The MB family has been build in greater numbers than any other European jet trainer, teaching tens of thousands of pilots around the world to fly and bringing further prestige to a name already synonymous with excellence», comments Alenia Aermacchi CEO Carmelo Cosentino. «It is a success we aim to repeat with the new M-346 Master, the only new generation jet trainer in production in Europe and one which is attracting growing interest from the world’s most prestigious air forces.»

Alenia Aermacchi, the world leader in training aircraft, is also the world’s oldest builder of aircraft in continuous existence. The company was incorporated in Varese on 1st May 1913 as Nieuport-Macchi and still echoes the original name carried by the fighters of Italy’s leading fighter aces, by record-breaking racing seaplanes and by the MB.339 of the Italian Air Force “Frecce Tricolori” acrobatic team.

Kees Otten & Wim Das

Press release from Venegono, 1st October 2009

Provided to Dutch Aviation MEDIA BV the Netherlands for publication.

Pictures: *The First ever constructed plane by Nieuport-Macchi, the 7000st plane MB-339 with test-pilot, constructors and officials, and the new ‘ACE’, Alenia Aermacchi’s new hope for even better results: The M-346 !*
