

## Highest fidelity simulator ever developed for Predator RPA enters service for Italian Air Force

**Amendola Air Base, Foggia, Italy, February 5, 2019** – CAE today announced that the Italian Ministry of Defence and Italian Air Force have formally qualified the CAE-built Predator Mission Trainer for zero flight time training on the Predator B/MQ-9 variant and the simulator has been accepted as ready-for-training at the Amendola Air Base in Italy. The Predator Mission Trainer (PMT) is the highest fidelity simulator ever developed and fielded for the Predator family of remotely piloted aircraft (RPA) systems developed by General Atomics Aeronautical Systems, Inc.

Officials from the Italian Air Force and executives from CAE and GA-ASI celebrated the milestone during a ceremony today at the Amendola Air Base.

“The incredible realism of the Predator Mission Trainer gives us a critical training capability to efficiently produce the highly skilled Predator crews we need to conduct a range of operational missions,” said an Italian Air Staff Representative. “Having the world’s highest fidelity Predator Mission Trainer as part of our unmanned systems centre of excellence in Italy gives us unmatched training flexibility and the ability to leverage simulation-based virtual training throughout our curriculum.”

The Predator Mission Trainer was jointly developed by CAE and GA-ASI. Earlier in 2018, the Italian Air Force began training on the Predator A variant of the Predator Mission Trainer.

“The development of the Predator Mission Trainer for the Italian Air Force represents a new level of fidelity and capability in the use of simulation-based training for remotely piloted aircraft pilots and sensor operators,” said Gene Colabattisto, Group President, Defence & Security, CAE. “We have leveraged our decades of experience developing the highest fidelity flight simulators for commercial and military aircraft, and applied the same discipline to this ‘zero flight time’ Predator Mission Trainer so that aircrews could potentially conduct all training in the simulator without necessarily requiring further training on the actual aircraft. We believe this Predator Mission Trainer is the first Level D equivalent simulator for an unmanned aircraft.”

The Predator Mission Trainer was formally qualified by the Italian Ministry of Defence’s Directorate of Air Armaments and Airworthiness (DAAA).

As prime contractor on the program, CAE collaborated with GA-ASI and the Italian Air Force to perform flight testing on an actual Italian Air Force Predator aircraft to gather the required flight data used in the development of the Predator Mission Trainer. The use of actual flight data specific to an individual aircraft, which is required when developing Level D simulators –



**The Predator Mission Trainer developed by CAE and GA-ASI for the Italian Air Force is capable of delivering zero flight time training.**



**The world’s highest fidelity simulator for the Predator remotely piloted aircraft is now ready-for-training to support the Italian Air Force.**

the highest qualification for flight simulators – is a first for the Predator family of RPAs. For the physical hardware, CAE used an actual Block 15 Mobile Ground Control Station (MGCS) provided by the Italian Air Force to ensure the highest level of fidelity and realism. The Predator Mission Trainer also features CAE's high-fidelity sensor simulation, fully interactive synthetic and tactical environment for enhanced mission training, and use of the Open Geospatial Consortium Common Database (OGC CDB) architecture for interoperable and networked training capabilities.

"GA-ASI was pleased to collaborate with CAE to develop this advanced simulator for the Predator, and we expect this training capability will be highly desired by militaries acquiring our family of remotely piloted aircraft systems," said David R. Alexander, president, GA-ASI. "The Predator Mission Trainer will play a key role helping the Italian Air Force develop highly skilled and well-trained aircrews who are prepared and ready to operate the proven Predator RPA systems."

## **About CAE**

CAE's Defence & Security business unit focuses on helping prepare our customers to develop and maintain the highest levels of mission readiness. We are a world-class training systems integrator offering a comprehensive portfolio of training centres, training services and simulation products across the air, land, sea and public safety market segments. We serve our global defence and security customers through regional operations in Canada; the United States/Latin America; Europe/Africa; and Asia-Pacific/Middle East, all of which leverage the full breadth of CAE's capabilities, technologies and solutions.

CAE is a global leader in training for the civil aviation, defence and security, and healthcare markets. Backed by a record of more than 70 years of industry firsts, we continue to help define global training standards with our innovative virtual-to-live training solutions to make flying safer, maintain defence force readiness and enhance patient safety. We have the broadest global presence in the industry, with over 9,000 employees, 160 sites and training locations in over 35 countries. Each year, we train more than 220,000 civil and defence crewmembers, including more than 135,000 pilots, and thousands of healthcare professionals worldwide. [www.cae.com](http://www.cae.com)

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