



# F-35 Lightning II Program

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## ITALY'S FIRST F-35 TAKES FLIGHT

CAMERI AIR BASE, Italy, Sept. 7, 2015 – Italy's first F-35A Lightning II, known as AL-1 and assembled at the Cameri Final Assembly and Check Out (FACO) facility, flew for the first time today marking the program's first-ever F-35 flight outside the United States.

The Cameri FACO is owned by the Italian government and operated by Finmeccanica-Alenia Aermacchi in association with Lockheed Martin. The Cameri FACO's F-35 production operations began in July 2013 and 'rolled out' Italy's first F-35A aircraft, AL-1, in March. AL-1's official delivery to Italy is expected by the end of the year. The facility will assemble both Italy's F-35A conventional takeoff and landing variant and the F-35B short takeoff/vertical landing variant, and is planned to assemble the Royal Netherlands Air Force's F-35A aircraft in the future. The F-35A and F-35B will replace Italian Air Force and Italian Navy AV-8 Harriers, Panavia Tornados and AMX fighters.



The first F-35A for the Italian Air Force, which is also the first F-35 built at the Cameri FACO (as seen), took to the skies over Italy, Sept. 7, making the first F-35 international airspace flight of the Lightning II.  
Lockheed Martin photo by: Todd McQueen

The F-35 Lightning II combines advanced low observable stealth technology with fighter speed and agility, fully fused sensor information, network-enabled operations and advanced sustainment. More than 130 production F-35s have been delivered to customers and have flown more than 38,700 cumulative fleet flight hours, fleet-wide.