GCAP Fighter: Canada Joins the Program with Italy, United Kingdom, and Japan

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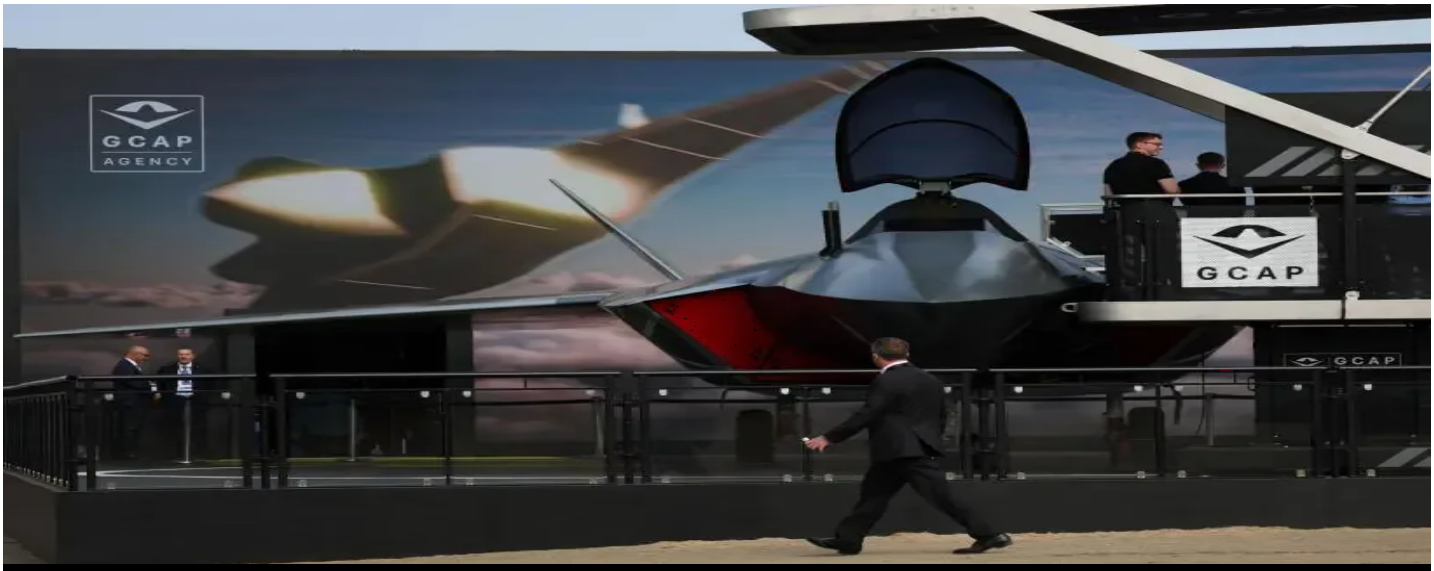
A strategic milestone of great satisfaction for international cooperation and advanced sixth-generation defense. Canada officially joins as the first observer country in the **Global Combat Air Programme (GCAP)**. The agreement marks a crucial expansion for the sixth-generation combat aircraft, consolidating Italy's central role in the global industrial and geopolitical scenario.

A strengthening global partnership

During the London summit hosted at the Wellington Barracks by the British government led by Labour Prime Minister Andy Burnham — with the presence of Defense Ministers including Italy's Guido Crosetto, Japan's Shinjirō Koizumi, and Canada's David McGuinty — Canada's entry into the GCAP program was formalized.

The North American ally initially participates as an observer country, gaining direct and structured visibility on strategies, industrial collaboration, and long-term delivery plans for the fighter. Although not having an immediate decision-making role, this step constitutes the solid legal and industrial foundation for discussing future active participation and direct contribution to the program.

- **4,500+ jobs** supported in the United Kingdom thanks to the program.
- **6th generation technology** for new standards of air superiority.



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Statements from Minister Guido Crosetto: Full Italian Support

The news was welcomed with great favor and satisfaction by Defense Minister Guido Crosetto, who reiterated the strong strategic harmony between Rome and Ottawa.

> *«I have expressed full support for the interest shown by Canada in the GCAP program, the sixth-generation combat aircraft. Italy and Canada share a strong desire to strengthen collaboration in the field of Defense and security, founded on common values and shared membership in the Atlantic Alliance.»*
>
> ***— Guido Crosetto, Defense Minister***

The Minister also emphasized the intention to expand bilateral cooperation between the armed forces, promoting new opportunities in the fields of technological innovation, future capabilities, and the defense industrial supply chain.

Expansion of Strategic Interests: Towards the Indo-Pacific and Antarctica

During the London summit, the discussion among ministers extended to major global geopolitical scenarios. Crosetto highlighted how global balances are rapidly changing:

> *«The center of global balances and the strategic interests of the members of the Atlantic Alliance are increasingly extending towards new areas once far from our attention, including the Indo-Pacific and Antarctica. It is therefore necessary to broaden our perspective and develop collaborative projects capable of taking these new balances into account, with the awareness that security challenges require coordinated responses.»*

Canada's entry into the GCAP program and the shared vision between Italy, the United Kingdom, Japan, and allied partners confirm the validity of a multilateral cooperation aimed at ensuring Euro-Atlantic security and long-term international stability.