

Ariete C2 Tank: A Step Forward in the Modernization of the Italian Armed Forces

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On July 18, 2025, at the Cecchignola Military Complex, a ceremony of great significance for the Italian Army took place: the delivery of the first **Ariete C2** tank, an upgraded version of the well-known heavy vehicle, symbolizing continuous technological updates to meet modern operational challenges. Present at the ceremony were the Army's top officials and representatives of the Iveco – Oto Melara Consortium (CIO), who collaborated on the enhancement program.

A Project for the Future: The Modernization of the Ariete

The Ariete C2 is the first of 90 vehicles that will be upgraded to strengthen the Army's armored capabilities. This project is part of a broad program to renew the heavy vehicle lines, initiated in recent years, and includes not only the modernization of the vehicles but also the acquisition of a decade-long logistical support to ensure long-term operational efficiency.

Corps General **Carmine Masiello**, Chief of Staff of the Army, emphasized the importance of this ceremony as a fundamental step in the continuous evolution of the Armed Force's capabilities. He stated:

> *“The delivery of the Ariete C2 is not just a technical milestone but a symbol of innovation and close collaboration between the Army and the Defense industry. Deterrence is the foundation of our security, and the Army, thanks to projects like this, is increasingly ready to face future challenges.”*



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Words from the President of CIO, Eng. Claudio Catalano

Claudio Catalano, President of the Iveco – Oto Melara Consortium, highlighted the strategic value of this modernization program. The improvement of the Ariete platform represents not only a technological leap but also a significant extension of its operational life. Catalano commented:

> *“The investments initiated in recent years are increasing Italian industrial capacity in the tracked vehicle sector. The Ariete program allows us to acquire new skills, bringing the system to a performance level that ensures operational continuity and a fundamental strategic deterrence capability for Italy.”*

This program not only strengthens the capabilities of the Italian Army but also addresses the deterrence needs expected in the next 3-5 years, in response to the evolution of global threats and the need for an Armed Force increasingly ready to operate in complex scenarios. The strengthening of industrial capabilities related to the Ariete C2 represents a strategic value for the Italian defense industry, which is becoming increasingly competitive internationally.

Advanced Technology: Mobility, Lethality, and Command

The modernization program includes significant improvements in three crucial areas:

- **Mobility:** upgrading propulsion systems to improve maneuverability even in complex operational conditions.
- **Lethality:** enhancing firepower capabilities with the introduction of new weaponry and advanced targeting systems.
- **Command and Control:** updating computer systems for more effective management of field operations.



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With the delivery of the Ariete C2, the Italian Army takes another fundamental step in its modernization path. The modernization of heavy vehicles is not just a technical matter but a commitment to strengthening national security, ensuring operational readiness, and effectively responding to future challenges.

The synergy between the Army and the defense industry is the key to building an Italy that is increasingly strong and ready to defend its freedom and values, with the support of cutting-

edge technology and equipment capable of meeting global challenges.