



Italy and Leonardo protagonists at the DSEI fair: GCAP at the center of the 2025 edition in London (September 9-12)

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From **September 9 to 12, 2025**, London hosts the **Defense and Security Equipment International (DSEI)**, the largest European fair dedicated to defense and security. The event, as always hosted at the **ExCel Centre**, records record numbers: over **1,600 exhibitors from more than 90 countries** and **45,000 people expected for the event**.

An event that every two years transforms the British capital into the beating heart of the global defense industry, with areas dedicated to **land, sea, air, space, cyber, and AI**, without neglecting innovation in emerging sectors such as **drones and autonomous systems**.

The Italian presence is particularly significant. Alongside historic names like **Beretta, Benelli,** and **Fiocchi**, with **“father” Leonardo** leading as a reference point for the national defense

industry, Italy brings to London **(as of today while we write) 39 exhibitors**, confirming the vitality of a sector that continues to innovate and consolidate international partnerships. The complete list of participating Italian companies is available on the official **DSEI** website at [this link](#).

GCAP: the program that marks the future

Great anticipation for the focus on the **GCAP (Global Combat Air Programme)**, [the next-generation aeronautical program](#) featuring **United Kingdom, Italy, and Japan**.

Only recently, the **European Commission** [approved the creation](#) of a joint venture between **BAE Systems** and **Leonardo**, a step that confirms Italy's industrial and technological weight in this project destined to revolutionize air combat by 2040.

Leonardo protagonist at the DSEI fair: great anticipation for the presentation of the GCAP in London (S

Leonardo, BAE Systems, and Mitsubishi signed a trilateral cooperation agreement in 2023 that initiated the conceptual phase of the GCAP program. In June 2025, the initiative also received approval from the European Commission, confirming its strategic significance

The official **DSEI** website describes the GCAP as a true **“cornerstone of aerospace innovation”**, highlighting how the fair will offer visitors the opportunity to delve into the dynamics of this international collaboration, explore technological opportunities related to the development of the sixth-generation fighter, and meet directly with the leaders driving this transformative program.

Leonardo protagonist at the DSEI fair: great anticipation for the presentation of the GCAP

On the official DSEI website: the Global Combat Air Programme (GCAP), the result of collaboration between the United Kingdom, Italy, and Japan, is presented as a “cornerstone of aerospace innovation” and the central point of the Aerospace Zone

Drones and UCAV: the new frontier of defense

The **DSEI 2025** dedicates ample space to the evolution of **remotely piloted systems**, complementing traditional exhibition areas with the latest innovations in the field of **UCAV (Unmanned Combat Air Vehicle)**, platforms that are reaching increasingly advanced operational capabilities.

Among the most interesting demonstrations are the **Shadow Fox by L3Harris**, an **Autonomous Surface Vehicle** capable of operating beyond the line of sight, and the **USV Pioneer by ACUA Ocean**, a **SWATH** platform with a load capacity of up to **6.5 tons** and zero-emission autonomous missions. Two concrete examples of how **autonomy and artificial intelligence** are profoundly transforming the very concept of military operations.

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The USV *Pioneer* by ACUA Ocean, a zero-emission SWATH platform with a load capacity of up to 6.5 tons, is a protagonist of the naval demonstrations at DSEI 2025 - Copyright Ocean Limited

Leonardo: 360-degree innovation

In London, **Leonardo** will present the best of its expertise in all operational domains:

- **Land** → electronics for land defense, radar systems, communications, and mission systems
- **Sea** → sonar, naval radars, integrated combat systems
- **Air** → aircraft, helicopters, avionics, programs like **GCAP**
- **Space** → through **Telespazio** and **Thales Alenia Space** (strategic partnerships)
- **Cyber** → cybersecurity and digital resilience solutions

The Italian company confirms its role as an **international technological hub**, one of the few players capable of integrating **research, innovation, and operations** in all domains: land, sea, air, space, and cyber. With **revenues in 2025 amounting to 17.8 billion euros**, an **order portfolio of 44.2 billion**, over **60,000 employees**, and **129 sites worldwide**, **Leonardo** establishes itself as a **global industrial champion**.

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Thanks to **2.5 billion in annual investments in research and development** and the fact that **64% of funding sources are linked to ESG parameters**, the company demonstrates the ability to combine **innovation, sustainability, and international competitiveness**.

Italy at the forefront

The presence of Leonardo and numerous Italian companies at DSEI 2025 demonstrates that Italy is not just a spectator, but a **protagonist of global defense**.

In an international context characterized by growing instability and technological competition, our country brings industrial expertise, innovative solutions, and a strong spirit of cooperation to London.

With the **GCAP** and such a broad participation, Italy confirms itself **at the forefront of the future of international defense and security**.

For all information and updated details, you can consult the official website: www.dsei.co.uk.

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