



The Baykar-Leonardo Joint Venture: 2000 Drones for Italy

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In the drone sector, Italy is making great strides thanks to growing cooperation with Turkey. One of the most significant initiatives in this field is the **joint venture between Baykar**, the Turkish company that produces **the famous TB-2 drones**, and Leonardo, a leader in advanced defense technologies. This collaboration not only strengthens Italy's strategic position in the global drone market but also promises to enhance the capabilities of the Italian armed forces.

A Strategic Agreement for Italy

The joint venture, LBA Systems, focuses on the production of armed drones, a sector that is gaining increasing importance in the context of the Italian armed forces. The armed forces have expressed strong interest in acquiring **2,000 unmanned drones**, capable of being armed, to boost the country's defense and surveillance capabilities. This potential contract, which is estimated at around two billion euros, reflects a growing demand for advanced technologies by the armed forces, particularly from the Army, but also from the Navy and Air Force.

The agreement also marks a great opportunity for the Italian industry. Leonardo, in fact, will provide electronic systems, sensors, cameras, and other cutting-edge technologies for the drones that Baykar produces. **A significant part of the production will take place in Italy**, including the Piaggio Aerospace plants in Albenga, recently acquired by the Turkish company. This synergy represents a mutual advantage for both companies, with Italy benefiting from new employment opportunities and technological innovation.

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An Opportunity for International Growth

This alliance is not limited to strengthening Italian defensive capabilities. LBA Systems also has ambitions to expand its presence in international markets. During the recent conference on the reconstruction of Ukraine, the Prime Minister, Giorgia Meloni, urged Italian companies to seize the opportunities offered by the geopolitical situation. **Leonardo, in fact, has already signed an agreement with Enav to donate civilian radars to Ukraine**, while Baykar is collaborating with other countries like Poland for drone exports. However, no direct investments are planned for drone production in Ukraine, thus maintaining a balance between supporting Ukrainian defense and safeguarding Italian industrial interests.

Implications for European Defense

The European rearmament project, advocated by countries like Germany, is pushing for an acceleration in arms production, including drones. The Italian armed forces, along with those of other European countries, are seeking to respond to growing geopolitical challenges, and the joint venture with Baykar represents a fundamental step in this direction. As highlighted by the German Defense Minister, Boris Pistorius, the European industry must increase its production capacities in every sector, from drones to tanks.

The agreement between Baykar and Leonardo marks an important milestone for Italian defense, with significant positive repercussions both economically and strategically. **The rapidly expanding armed drone sector represents a crucial resource for the future of the Italian armed forces**, and this collaboration promises to further strengthen Italy's position in the global defense landscape. Thanks to this agreement, Italy is preparing to become a leading

player in the international drone market, with a direct impact on the country's operational and industrial capabilities.

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