

The government reconsiders and says yes to SAFE: European funds to secure defense, industry, and jobs

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A great season of technological and industrial development for Italy: European synergy translates into new highly qualified jobs, defense modernization, and manufacturing centrality.

The European Union and Italy decisively embark on the path of strategic autonomy, transforming global security challenges into an extraordinary opportunity for industrial growth, technological innovation, and qualified employment. In this evolving scenario, the combination of large community funds — such as the **SAFE (Security Action for Europe)** program — and major national programs for land defense finds its highest expression in the equal joint venture **Leonardo Rheinmetall Military Vehicles (LRMV)**.

This strategic alliance between **Leonardo** and the German giant **Rheinmetall** represents one of the most solid pillars for the technological renewal of the Italian Army. By combining European financial capacity and the strict constraint of continental production, Italy equips itself

with cutting-edge assets, ensuring a direct and lasting economic return on its territory.

New platforms for the Army: the A2CS and NMBT programs at the center of industrial revival

The modernization plan for the heavy component and infantry of the Italian Army develops around two major technological initiatives managed by LRMV (headquartered in Rome with an operational hub in La Spezia):

- **The A2CS (Army Armoured Combat System) program:** based on the modular platform of the Lynx tracked vehicle, it involves the development and supply of hundreds of highly digitized combat vehicles, designed to operate in multi-domain contexts and interconnected with advanced communication systems and drone swarms.
- **The New Main Battle Tank (NMBT):** the new combat tank intended to inherit the legacy of the Ariete, based on the KF51 Panther prototype, which will see Leonardo engaged in the development of primary armament, electronics, sensors, and advanced defense suites.

> *«European industrial cooperation is not only a tool of deterrence and security but the most powerful accelerator of technological and employment development for our factories and engineers.»*



High value-added jobs and territorial return

The choice to root production, assembly, and maintenance on national territory — with strong involvement of the Ligurian hub and a vast network of small and medium-sized subcontracting enterprises — produces a multiplier effect on the entire economy:

- **Qualified employment:** engineers, electronic technicians, cybersecurity specialists, and skilled workers find new and stable professional opportunities within the aerospace and defense supply chain.
- **Research and Development (R&D):** the advanced digitization of new armored vehicles and integration with anti-drone systems and artificial intelligence fuel a constant flow of applied technological innovation.
- **Growth of the supply chain:** the involvement of the national supply chain consolidates the competitiveness of the Italian industrial sector, successfully positioning it also in international export markets.

Technological sovereignty and shared prosperity

The virtuous integration between facilitated European funding and major national industrial programs demonstrates that building an autonomous and secure Europe perfectly coincides with the protection and enhancement of Italian labor. By reducing dependence on non-EU markets and focusing on national technological know-how, Italy secures its borders and ensures economic stability, cutting-edge factories, and solid employment for the future.