

Launching of HS NEARCHOS, second Defence and Intervention Frigate (FDI) for the Hellenic Navy

On September 19th, 2024, the launching ceremony of the second FDI frigate Hellenic Ship (HS) Nearchos took place in the Naval Group shipyard in Lorient.

The ceremonial launching took place in the presence of Nikolaos Dendias, Minister of National Defence of the Hellenic Republic, and General Gaël Diaz de Tuesta, Director of the International Direction of the French General Armament Directorate (representing Sébastien Lecornu, the French Minister of the Armed Forces), General Dimitrios Choupis, Chief of the Hellenic National Defence General Staff (or HNDGS), Vice Admiral Dimitrios E. Kataras, Chief of Hellenic Navy General Staff (or HNGS) as well as the General Director of GDDIA, Major General Ioannis Bouras were also attending the ceremony.

The HS Nearchos frigate joined on the Scorff river her sistership HS Kimon, which is currently undergoing harbor trials before starting on her first sea trials. HS Nearchos will receive its Panoramic Sensors and Intelligence Module (PSIM) a few weeks after its launching.

The three Hellenic Frigates are now at an advanced stage of production, as the third unit, HS Formion, whose keel laying of its first block took place in April, has completed its hull assembly this August. One of her blocks, section 8, was manufactured by Salamis Shipyards in Greece. The three frigates will be delivered in 2025 and 2026.

This event is once again an opportunity to highlight the success of the solid, long-term industrial cooperation between France and Greece, which is characterized in particular by the integration of numerous Greek manufacturers into Naval Group's supply chain. As such, HS Nearchos, as well as the other FDI frigates, incorporates several equipment "made in Greece".

An innovative, powerful and digital frigate

The FDI for the Hellenic Navy is a 4,500-tonne warship. Multipurpose and resilient, she will enable the Hellenic Navy to ensure its maritime superiority in the Eastern Mediterranean Sea thanks to her high-level capabilities in all areas of naval combat: anti-air, anti-submarine, anti-ship, and special forces projection, with unique capabilities against asymmetric threats. She also benefits from the latest Thales innovations in radar, sonar and electronic warfare. Strongly armed (MBDA Exocet MM40 B3C anti-surface and Aster anti-missile missiles, RAM systems, MU90 anti-submarine torpedoes, artillery), HS Nearchos embarks simultaneously a helicopter and a capacity of aerial vehicle (UAV). She also benefits from the expertise of Thales, MBDA, and all our other partners and subcontractors.



Defence Minister Dendias made the following statement: “We welcome the arrival of our new frigate, *NEARCHOS*. This is a significant event for our Hellenic Navy and our country’s Armed Forces. It reaffirms our commitment to strengthening our National Defence and fortifying our country.

The frigate is the second naval unit under a critical armament programme initiated by my dear friend and former classmate, Minister Nikos Panagiotopoulos. This programme has now expanded. Today, with the approval of Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis, I am pleased to announce Greece’s intent to begin negotiations for the acquisition of a fourth frigate of the same type. Additionally, we will start negotiations for the second, third, and fourth frigates to be equipped with strategic capabilities, including the SCALP Naval strategic missile.

These developments are part of the broader “Agenda 2030,” our comprehensive plan for national defence. Crews for our frigates are already undergoing training in Greece and France.

The goal of “Agenda 2030” is to safeguard our national sovereignty, sovereign rights, and, in general, the protection of the European single space and the values we uphold—democracy, freedom, human rights, and freedom of speech.

We will discuss “Agenda 2030” in detail soon, as we plan to present a ten-year armaments programme and a 20-year strategic outlook to the Hellenic Parliament’s competent Committee. Afterward, I will submit it to the Governmental National Security Council for approval.

Our goal is singular, great, and shared by all of Greek society. It is for this society and its people that we work. Today is indeed a joyous day.”



Technical specifications:

- Displacement: 4,500 tons
- Length: approx. 122 meters
- Width: 18 meters
- Maximum speed: 27 knots
- Aviation facilities: 10-ton class helicopter, VTOL unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV)
- Main armaments:
 - 32 Aster missiles developed by MBDA
 - 8 Exocet MM40 B3C missiles developed by MBDA
 - RAM missiles
 - MU 90 torpedoes developed by Naval Group
 - 76 mm gun
 - 4 torpedo tubes
 - CANTO counter measures developed by Naval Group

