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Greek Defence News

**BIMONTHLY DEFENCE AND SECURITY REVIEW FOR GREECE, CYPRUS, AND THE
SOUTHERN EAST EUROPEAN REGION**

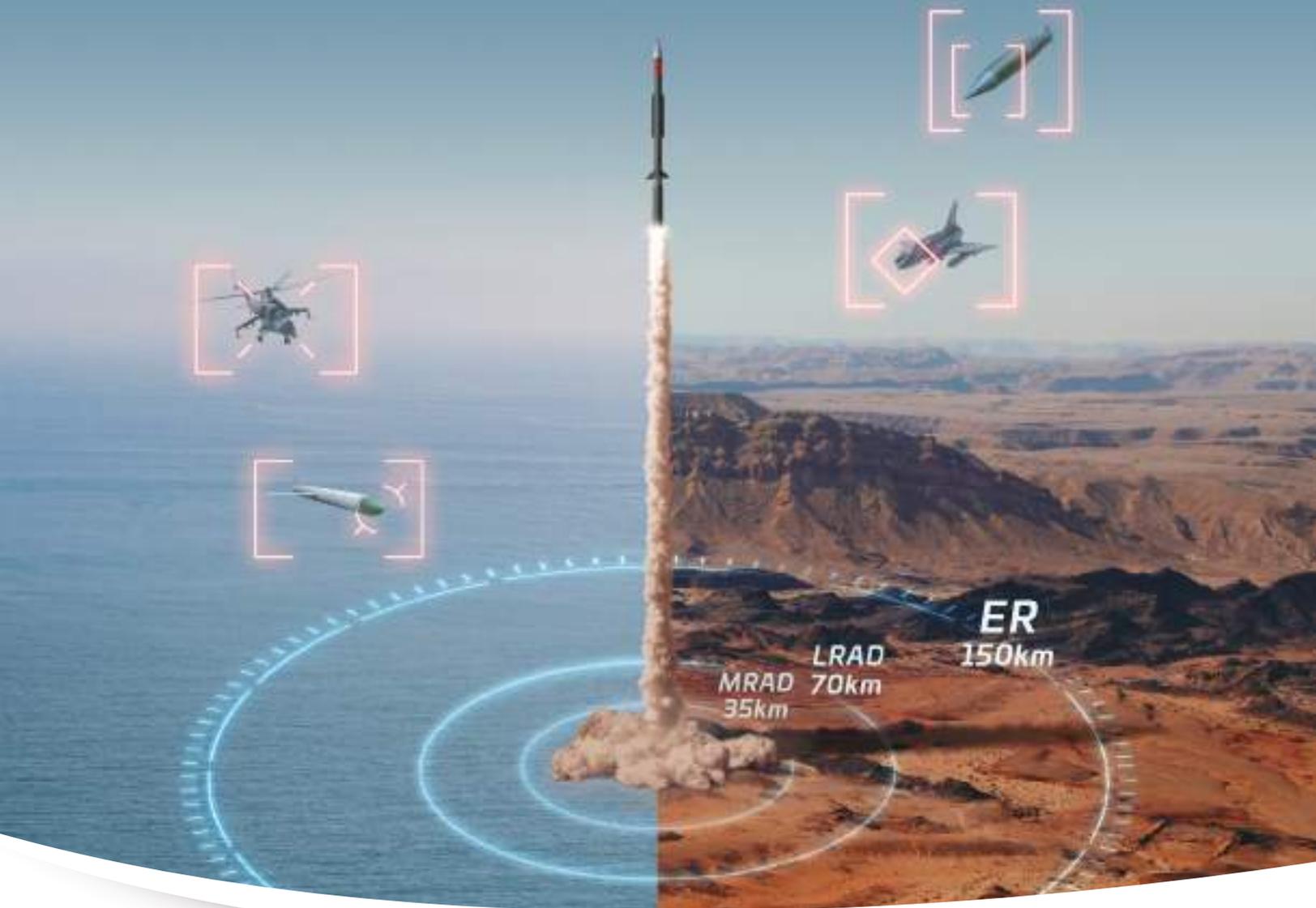
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■ General

2021 Defence Ministry Budget

On 13 December 2020, Defence Minister Nikos Panagiotopoulos addressed the Greek Parliament on MOD Budget for the fiscal year 2021.

Defence minister announced that government increases the budget of the Ministry of National Defence from 3.35 billion (in total during 2020), to 5.44 billion for 2021, thus returning to spending levels of the decade 2000 – 2010

According to Nikos Panagiotopoulos, the budget of 2021, increased by 2.1 billion euros, includes:

- The provision for strengthening the Armed Forces personnel with 1,600 Professional Soldiers and 1,000 Short-Term Professional Soldiers.
- As of the next academic year and for a period of five years, 1,335 students will be admitted to the military academies of Officers and NCOs of all Branches per year, compared to the 819 admissions of the last years.
- The funds for the Operating Expenditures of the Ministry of Defence stabilized at last year's levels, amounting to 480 million euros

The expenditures for the Armament Programs increase of about 2 billion or 375% is projected compared to this year's credits. They are formed at the amount of 2.52 billion in order to serve the needs of support and upgrade of the existing weapon systems as well as the needs of acquiring new ones

The Minister of National Defence said that, among others in 2021 the following programs will be implemented with significant added value to the domestic defence industry:

1. Acquisition of 18 Rafale" fighter jets along with their weapons and the contract of their follow-on support,
2. Acquisition of new four multi-role frigates and the
3. Modernization program of the four existing four MEKO class frigates
4. Upgrade and completion of the Submarine torpedoes program,
5. Acquisition of new state-of-the-art "Romeo" helicopters with excellent anti-submarine capabilities,
6. Acquisition of new anti-tank weapons for the Hellenic Army,
7. Acquisition of new missiles for the Hellenic Air Force,
8. Acquisition of new unmanned aerial vehicles for the Hellenic Air Force and the Hellenic Navy,
9. Implementation of the national rifle program
10. Implementation of the national vehicle program

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The Minister also emphasized the fact that chronic problems of upgrading and support of systems are solved, such as:

- Contract for upgrade and support of F-16s and their weapons, meaning the upgrade of F16 Block 52 + in Viper version and F-16 Block 50 in Block 52+ version C-130 and C-27 cargo aircraft support contracts, since the fleet of transport aircraft should not be grounded
- Contract for the support of “Apache” helicopters and every operationally necessary weapon system, some of which for many years I am very afraid were left to their fate without support with obvious negative results in terms of their operational availability

Defence Minister also said that the 105 sub-programs worth a total of 11.5 billion for the next six – seven years that have already been planned are continuing. “This planned armament program, the largest in terms of annual planning and budget that has existed in recent decades and will be implemented quickly and transparently, starting with the contract for the acquisition of the “Rafale” aircraft that we will bring to Parliament in the coming days,” said the Minister in his speech.

■ Hellenic Army

M1117 Guardian Armored Security Vehicles (ASV)

Hellenic Army will acquire slightly used 4x4 M1117 Guardian Armored Security Vehicles (ASV). On Monday, 21 December 2020, the Minister of National Defence, Mr. Nikolaos Panagiotopoulos, briefed the members of the Special Standing Committee on Armament Programs & Contracts of the Hellenic Parliament.

U.S. Congress has approved the sale of 1,200 ASVs which had been used by U.S. Army military police units and were offered to Greece for around 70,000 euros. However, the sale price to the Greek military didn't include the platform's armaments, so Greek Army will have to supply its own machine guns and grenade launchers. Yet, even in used condition and without armaments the M1117 could be just what the Greek military needs—an affordable platform with plenty of spare parts to ensure that the Guardians will remain operational for years to come.

The 4x4 wheeled armored vehicle platform was developed by Textron Marine & Land Systems' (TMYL) Cadillac Gage in the late 1990s for the

United States Military Police Corps, and the first prototypes were delivered in 1997. The M1117 entered serial production in late 1999 and was ready for deployment just as the United States became involved in the conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq. The Guardian was widely deployed in the early stages of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom, where it was involved as mission essential equipment, and provided operational capability in both missions.

The vehicles provided protection to military from small arms fire and mines but also offered quick insertion capability and maneuverability in urban areas. The M1117 was developed with worldwide deployment in mind and was made to be compatible with the C-130 transport / cargo plane.

Replacement Hellenic Army's military vehicles

Hellenic Army General Staff plans the replacement of 10,000 Mercedes and Steyr vehicles, trucks and the jeeps. Estimated budget is in 550 million euros, mobilizes all major military vehicle manufacturers. Main candidates are considered, the French companies Nexter and Arquus, the US Oshkosh Corporation, the Italian Iveco, the German MAN Group and the Israeli Plasan.

NH-90 helicopters

On Thursday, April 8, 2021, the Sixth (6th) Amendment of the Contract No.: 034A/03 was signed, which concerns the “Supply of sixteen (16) Transport Helicopters NH 90 – four (4) Special Operation Helicopters NH 90 and four (4) Medical Evacuation Sets” between the Hellenic Ministry of National Defence, which was represented by GDDIA's General Director, Lieutenant General (Rtd) Theodoros Lagios (HAF) and the NH Industries Company, which was represented by Head of Export Variants of NH Industries, Mr. Ernst Heckert, and the NH90 Program Manager for Greece at Airbus Helicopters, Mrs. Isabel Humby

■ Hellenic Navy

Hellenic Navy's new frigate

The Hellenic Navy's new frigate will be a “high end” multipurpose/multisession frigate with advanced capabilities in anti-air, anti-submarine, and anti-ship warfare. It should be able to operate under all circumstances and weather conditions contributing

to the accomplishment of Hellenic Navy's main mission and international obligations. Her main operational characteristics will assure the retainment for the next 15 – 20 years of navy's core traditional capabilities, referring to all the inherent tasks on Above Water and Under Water Warfare.

A large, olive-green 8x8 military vehicle, the VBCI T40, is shown in a forest setting. The vehicle is equipped with various sensors, cameras, and a turret. The word "nexter" is visible on the front of the vehicle. The background consists of dense green trees.

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On Saturday 5 June 2021, during a meeting hosted at Maximos Mansion, the Prime Minister Mr. Kyriakos Mitsotakis was briefed by the Political and Military Leadership on the evaluation of proposals submitted to the Hellenic Navy concerning its reinforcement with four new frigates. During the meeting a proposal to further examine the evaluation capabilities for the procurement of frigates from the following countries in alphabetical order became accepted: France, Germany, Holland, Italy, the United Kingdom, the USA.

The meeting chaired by the Prime Minister was also attended by the Minister of National Defence Mr. Nikolaos Panagiotopoulos, HNDGS Chief General Konstantinos Floros, HNGS Chief Vice-Admiral Stylianos Petrakis, Ministry of Defence Secretary General Mr. Antonios Economou, GDDIA General Director Mr. Aristides Alexopoulos, National Security Advisor Mr. Thanos Dokos and Prime Minister's Secretary General Mr. Grigorios Dimitriadis.

Submarine's torpedo program

Defence Minister Panagiotopoulos had stated that among the Hellenic Navy's priorities is the acquisition of modern heavyweight torpedoes to equip the S-214 type submarines. The Hellenic Navy is looking to procure 36 21-inch (533 mm) heavyweight torpedoes for its four Papanikolis-class Type 214 submarines and sole Type 209 AIP-equipped submarine, HS Okeanos, to replace legacy AEG SUT and SST-4 torpedoes. Navy originally launched the new-generation heavyweight torpedo acquisition program in 2002. The contenders will likely include Atlas Elektronik with the DM2A4 Seahake Mod4, Naval Group with the F21 and Leonardo with the Black Shark

MEKO frigate upgrade

The Hellenic Parliament Defence Committee approved the mid-life update (MLU) of the Hellenic Navy's four Blohm + Voss/Hellenic Shipyards-built MEKO 200HN Hydra-class frigates, commissioned during the 1990s. The MLU is necessary to modernize the ships' capabilities to respond in the new operational requirements. The selected sub-systems for the MLU will be decided according to the budget availability which is around 450 million euro. No more details were announced

MH-60R Multi-Mission Helicopters

The Hellenic Parliament Defence Committee approved the acquisition of four (4) MH-60R Multi-Mission Helicopters to provide the capability to perform anti-surface and anti-submarine warfare missions along with the ability to perform secondary

missions including vertical replenishment, search and rescue, and communications relay. On July 12, 2019, The State Department has made a determination approving a possible Foreign Military Sale to the Government of Greece of MH-60R Multi-Mission Helicopters with support for an estimated cost of \$600 million. The Defense Security Cooperation Agency delivered the required certification notifying Congress of this possible sale. The Government of Greece has requested to buy up to seven (7) MH-60R Multi-Mission Helicopters equipped with ten (10) APS-I 53(V) Multi-Mode Radars (7 installed, 3 spares); eighteen (18) T700 GE-401 C Engines (14 installed, 4 spares); seven (7) Airborne Low Frequency System (ALFS) (7 installed); ten (10) AN/ AAS-44C(V) Multi-Spectral Targeting Systems (7 installed, 3 spares); eighteen (18) Embedded Global Positioning System/Inertial Navigation Systems with Selective Availability/Anti-Spoofing Module (SAASM) (14 installed, 4 spares); one-thousand (1,000) AN/SSQ-36/53/62 Sonobuoys; two (2) AGM-114 M36-E9 Captive Air Training Missiles (CATM); four (4) AGM-114Q Hellfire Training Missiles; one Hundred (100) Advanced Precision Kill Weapons System (APKWS) Rockets; thirty (30) MK 54 Torpedoes; twelve (12) M-2400 Crew Served Guns; and twelve (12) GAU-21 Crew Served Guns. Also included are eighteen (18) AN/ARC-210 APX-1990A(C) Radios with COMSEC (14 installed and 4 spares); twenty-four (24) AN/AVS-9 Night Vision Devices; ten (10) AN/APX-123 Identification Friend or Foe (IFF) transponders (8 installed, 2 spares); spare engine containers; facilities study, design, and construction; spare and repair parts; support and test equipment; communication equipment; ferry support; publications and technical documentation; personnel training and training equipment; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistical and program support. The estimated total case value is \$600 million.

Delivery of the 6th Super Vita Fast Attack Craft

After a long delay almost eight years, the Hellenic Navy has taken delivery of the 6th BAE Systems designed Fast Attack Craft at a ceremony at Elefsis Shipyard near Athens. HS "Karathanasis" is the latest vessel in a class of seven 62 metre Fast Attack Craft being built by BAE Systems' industry partner, Elefsis Shipyards, for the Hellenic Navy.

Under a long-term technology transfer programme, BAE Systems is the design authority and major subcontractor to Elefsis Shipyards, responsible for the design and combat systems integration of the vessels.

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The 62 metre Fast Attack Craft is designed as a high speed, multi-role platform that can operate in both anti-air and surface combat situations. Used by the Hellenic Navy as a high-speed interception and offshore patrol craft, its extensive weapon fit on a compact hull delivers an economic solution to surveillance, intelligence gathering, patrol, interdiction and engagement of enemy forces.

The purchase agreement of the first three fast attack craft (FACs) of the Roussen class (was signed in January 2000, and the construction took place at Eleusis Shipyards, while the Vosper Thornycroft (now BAE Systems Maritime) provided the necessary planning, logistics and equipment for the vessels. In August 2003 a contract was awarded for further two ships, Grigoropoulos and Ritsos, to be built by Elefsis. Ritsos was launched in October 2006 while the vessel was commissioned recently in 2015. A contract from the Hellenic Navy for an additional two vessels, to bring the total to seven, was placed in September 2008. The first ship of the class was launched in November 2002 while three more vessels were launched the next three years. The seventh boat, Vlahakos, is expected to be delivered within 2021.

Modernization of P-3 Orion Maritime Patrol Aircraft

Defence Minister informed parliament that the Modernization of P-3 Orion Maritime Patrol Aircraft will be completed by 2024 while the total cost will be \$499.843.145,00.

The government-to-government agreement between the United States and Greece was announced in 2015, providing for the re-activation of one Hellenic Navy P-3B Orion maritime patrol aircraft, which has been delivered. This agreement also includes the modernization of four Hellenic Navy P-3B aircraft through the Mid-Life Upgrade (MLU) Program.

MLU kits provide an extension of service life by 15,000 flight hours. In addition, this contract provides for phased depot maintenance; a Greece indigenous mission integration and management system; new avionics; and other ancillary hardware and services.

The P-3 Orion is the model in maritime patrol and reconnaissance aircraft, and is used for homeland security, anti-piracy operations, humanitarian relief, search and rescue, intelligence gathering, antisubmarine warfare and, recently, to assist in air traffic control and natural disaster relief support. The Hellenic Navy operated the P-3 fleet for 15 years. Work on the Hellenic Navy P-3s is performed at HAI facilities in Greece, as well as at Lockheed Martin's facilities in Marietta, Georgia, and Greenville, South

Carolina. Lockheed Martin is the Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) of the P-3 Orion.

The P-3 MLU and Avionics Modernization Program provides state-of-the-art operational advantages to the Hellenic Navy to not only support present mission requirements, but future ones as well. The domestic defense industry in Greece is providing 30 percent of the overall program value, drawing considerable industrial, financial and technological benefits for the autonomous operation and support of the specific weapon system.

Hellenic Air Force

Greece equips itself with the RAFALE

On 25 January 2021, in the premises of the Greek Ministry of National Defence, Theodoros Lagios, General Director of Armament and Investments of the Greek MOD, and Eric Trappier, Chairman and CEO of Dassault Aviation, signed a contract, worth of 1,9 million euro for the acquisition of 18 Rafale aircraft for the Hellenic Air Force, as well as a contract worth of 400.000 million euro for the logistical support of the fleet. This signing ceremony was held in Athens in the presence of Mrs. Florence Parly, Minister of the Armed Forces of France, and Mr. Nikolaos Panagiotopoulos, Minister of National Defense of Greece.

As a European country and member of NATO, Greece is a major strategic partner of France. Dassault Aviation is honored by the Greek government's decision, that extends an uninterrupted partnership for 45 years. The order for 18 Rafale includes 12 Rafale recently in service with the French Air Force and 6 new Rafale produced at Dassault Aviation plants. To meet the urgent need of the Greek authorities, the deliveries of aircraft will begin in the summer of 2021 and will be spread over two years. The logistic support contract will support the Hellenic Air Force Rafale's air activity over four and a half years, maintaining the availability of equipment and systems at the highest level.

The arrival of the Rafale in Greece highlights the quality of the strategic relationship between Greece and France and the continuation of more than forty-five years of solid partnership with Dassault Aviation and its industrial partners Thales and Safran. As with the Mirage F1 in 1974, the Mirage 2000 in 1985 and finally the Mirage 2000-5 in 2000, the Rafale is an opportunity to launch new cooperation's with the Greek aerospace industry.

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with which Dassault Aviation has stood steadfastly by its side for more than 45 years. The continuity of our presence in Greece, even in the most difficult times, is a token of the quality of this relationship. That is why I am proud and happy to sign today this contract, which symbolizes the extension of the commitment of Dassault Aviation towards Greece since 1974. I would like to thank the Greek authorities for their renewed confidence in us. I assure them of our total mobilization to achieve the objectives that are defined”, said Eric Trappier, Chairman and CEO of Dassault Aviation.

MBDA to arm Hellenic Air Force's new Rafale fighter jets

The new aircrafts' weapons will benefit from the strong commonality with those from the Mirage 2000s and Mirage 2000-5s currently in service in the Hellenic Air Force. Like these, the Rafales will be armed with SCALP cruise missiles, AM39 Exocet anti-ship missiles and MICA multi-mission air-to-air missiles. Additionally, MBDA will also supply Meteor beyond visual range air-to-air missiles.

Eric Béranger, CEO of MBDA, said: “The signing of this agreement turns a new page in our relationship with Greece, which we have had for more than half a century. The country was the very first customer of the Exocet missile in 1968, showing great confidence in it and in our predecessor companies. This confidence has been renewed over the years and is being renewed again today. It is our duty to do everything we can in order to continue delivering on this confidence into tomorrow.”

MBDA is the only European group capable of designing and producing missiles and missile systems that correspond to the full range of current and future operational needs of the three-armed forces (land, sea and air).

New training center for Hellenic Air Force in Kalamata

On April 18, 2021, Elbit Systems Ltd. announced, further to the Company's announcement of January 5, 2021, that it was awarded a contract valued at approximately \$1.65 billion (approximately €1.375 billion) for the establishment and operation of the International Flight Training Center of the Hellenic Air Force, as part of an agreement between the Israeli Ministry of Defense and the Hellenic Ministry of National Defense.

The contract will be performed over a period of approximately 20 years and will include price indexation. Under the contract, Elbit Systems will supply new M-346 training aircraft and will maintain

the entire training fleet, comprised of dozens of M-346 and T-6 training aircraft for a period of approximately 20 years. In addition, the Company will provide its latest advanced Embedded Virtual Avionics (EVA) onboard the training aircraft, deliver networked flight simulators and an array of Ground-Based Training Stations (GBTS) as well as a command-and-control system to enable efficient management of the flight training operation.

Bez halel (Butzi) Machlis, President and CEO of Elbit Systems, said: “We are honored to have been awarded this contract to provide such an important capability to the Hellenic Air Force. This contract award attests to the leading position we hold in the area of pilot's training solutions, providing tested know-how and proven technologies that improve operational readiness while reducing costs.”

Support of Mirage 2000-5

Hellenic Parliament approved Ministry of Defence request regarding the funding for the support of Mirage 2000-5, a ceiling of € 260 million over seven years. Speaking in the Hellenic Parliament, Defence Minister Panagiotopoulos said that this approval endorses the three draft framework agreements for the subsequent support of Mirage 2005 aircraft between General Directorate for Defence Investments and Armament (GDIA) and the three French manufacturing companies Dassault, Thales and Safran. There was a problem that unfortunately exists from 2012, but also before. Mirage 2000-5 aircraft support, for which the specific operational advantage are well known, after many extensions expired in 2012, but since then never renewed. A new follow-up contract was required under the new legislative framework. The negotiations lasted almost throughout 2018, until finally, and especially after his visit to Paris and the direct talks with his French counterpart, they agreed that they had to end this long-standing affair. They agreed that the Mirage is one of the Hellenic Air Force top priorities. Defence Minister also said that the French may have been thinking that if this will be resolved, a future window for Rafale may remain open or we may come in an agreement with the frigates.

We agreed that the Mirage had to be launched because we required it to fly again with the correct availability. To avoid misunderstanding, a capable part of the Mirage fleet is currently operational and in high redness. This may begin next month to let us know that in four, five, six months from now, a sufficient percentage of the 44 Mirage 2000 and 2000-5 fleets will be available for Air Force needs, with whatever that entails.

This is how we came to the framework agreements. Funding for this program, a ceiling of € 260 million over seven years, is already approved. We had a case, and we told the French that Greece has the

funds, the spare parts had been found and we had to agree. As you understand, we have agreed that funding for 2019 to 2021 is 30 million per year as it has been already announced by the Ministry of Finance.

F-16V Viper upgrade

The first of 84 Greek Lockheed Martin F-16 fighters to be upgraded to the F-16V Viper standard took to the skies for the first time on January 17 and is now in Texas and at the Lockheed Martin Aero facility. The upgrade to the Viper version is a collaboration between the Hellenic Defense Industry (EAB) and Lockheed Martin. In Texas, all the necessary ground and flight tests will be performed, including simulation in special cabins, to determine that the aircraft meets all the necessary specifications.

The F-16V had been upgraded at the Tanagra facility of Hellenic Aerospace Industry (HAI), which is to carry out the modifications to the fleet in a program that was approved by the U.S. government in October 2017. The value is estimated to reach around \$1.5 billion. The first airframe, carrying the serial number 005, was originally delivered in 2009 as an F-16C Block 52+ with Pratt & Whitney F100-PW-229 engine as part of the Peace Xenia IV sale.

Greece acquired a total of 90 Block 52/52+ aircraft and the survivors are the subject of the upgrade. The Hellenic Air Force (HAF) also received 80 Block 30/50 aircraft powered by the General Electric F110, but they are not part of the F-16V program.

After modernization, the aircraft is now an F-16V in Block 72 configuration, the "2" denoting its P&W powerplant. The key element of the modernization is the installation of the Northrop Grumman APG-83 Scalable Agile Beam Radar (SABR), a sensor with an active electronically scanned array (AESA).

The cockpit has a new center pedestal display and is compatible with the Joint Helmet-Mounted Cueing System (JHMCS) II.

Other improvements include a new mission computer, an automatic ground collision avoidance system, enhanced electronic warfare capabilities, Link 16 datalink, and an advanced identification friend or foe interrogator system.

The next three F-16Vs are also expected to go to the U.S. to join the test fleet. A successful conclusion of the certification process will result in approval by Lockheed Martin for HAI to proceed with the remainder of the upgrade program, which is expected to be completed by June 2027.



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MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

Defence Minister participates in NATO Defence Ministers Meeting

On Tuesday, 1 June 2021, the Minister of National Defence Nikolaos Panagiotopoulos participated, via teleconference, in the summer Meeting of NATO Defence Ministers, during which the preparation for the Summit, on 14 June 2021, was discussed.

During the discussion for the procedure "NATO 2030", Panagiotopoulos pointed out that our country supports the implementation of a new generation operational plans that will cover the whole Europe, taking also under consideration new sources of concern with regard to the Allies in the Southern Flank, like terrorism and the phenomenon of massive immigration flows.

He also assessed that NATO's clear orientation regarding the so called "emerging technologies" provides new extroversion opportunities to the defence industry of the Alliance's countries, and

Finally, the Minister of National Defence pointed out our country's support to the prospect of extending the allied fuel distribution system to the East Flank of NATO, indicating that the infrastructures in North-Eastern Greece provide important and financially viable opportunities, for the implementation of the specific program.

Defence Minister attends informal EU Defence Ministers Meeting

On 27 and 28 May 2021, the Minister of National Defence Nikolaos Panagiotopoulos participated in the informal EU Defence Ministers Meeting, held in Lisbon. In his speech on the first day of the meeting's works, during the working dinner also attended by NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg, Panagiotopoulos highlighted that Greece fully supports the strengthening of the EU-NATO relations, based on transparency and mutuality, respecting the autonomy of each Organisation.

He also stressed, in relation to the illegal actions of Belarus with the aircraft flying over its territory, that there need be a strong and decisive reaction.

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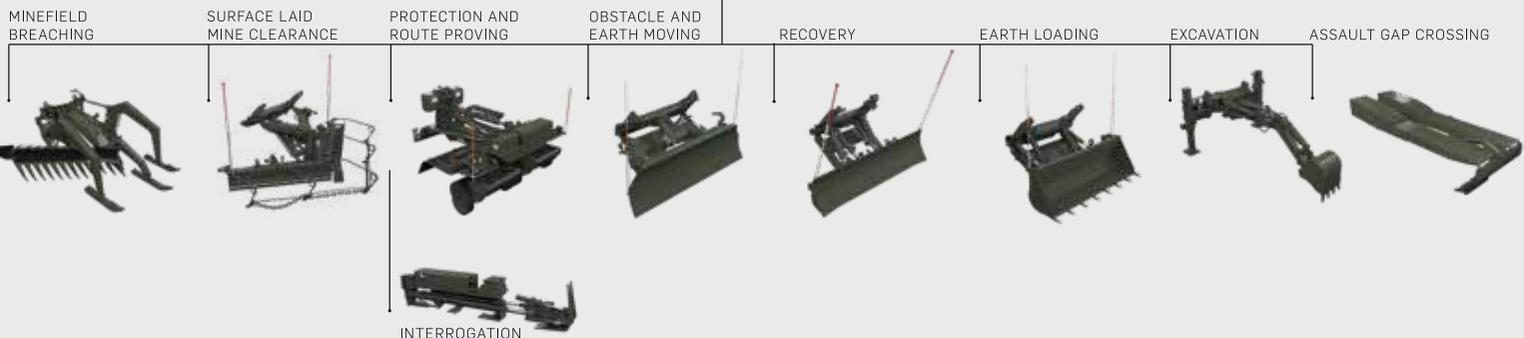
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Relating to the “Strategic Compass” he highlighted that there should be an immediate connection between the threat analysis and the respective capabilities that will be developed by the EU. He also pointed out that the European Defence Fund tools, should be used for Research and Development of modern and emerging technologies, while the emphasis should be placed upon the development of political (non-military) capabilities to tackle illegal migration and violent extremism. The Minister said that Greece is actively interested in the stability of the Sahel region and South-East Africa, fact which is proved by the recent opening of the Embassy of the Hellenic Republic in Dakar.

In the sidelines of the informal meeting, the Minister of National Defence had a bilateral meeting with his Italian counterpart Mr. Lorenzo Guerini, during which they talked about the defence –technical cooperation of the two countries, the security challenges in the South-Wing of NATO, as well as the developments in SE Mediterranean.

➔ **First Hellenic-Dutch Industry Day**



On Friday, July 2, 2021, the 1st Hellenic – Dutch Industry Day took place in Officer’s Club. The Industry Day was organized by Hellenic MoD

/General Directorate for Defence Investments and Armaments (GDDIA). Introduces speeches were made by the General Director of GDDIA, Vice Admiral (Rtd) Aristeidis Alexopoulos from the Greek side and by Mr Mauritis ter Kuile Deputy Head of Mission, of the Kingdom of Netherlands. A large number of Greek and Dutch companies that are active in the field of Defense and Security took part in the event.

HELLENIC ARMED FORCES ARMAMENT PROGRAMS

➔ **Deputy Minister of National Defence Alkiviadis Stefanis briefs the Parliament Special Permanent Committee on Armament Programs**

On Tuesday 8 June 2021, the Deputy Minister of National Defence Alkiviadis Stefanis provided a briefing to the members of the Special Permanent Committee on Armament Programs of the Hellenic Parliament, pertaining to the two following issues which received a positive opinion:

- Activation of the program for the “Procurement of A-T-KORNET –E Guided Missiles” for the benefit of the Hellenic Army.
- Activation of the Program for the “Integration of IFF MODE 5 into Air Command and Control RADAR Systems” for the benefit of the Hellenic Air Force.

The session of the Special Permanent Committee, held at the Parliament’s Congress Hall, was attended by HNDGS Deputy Chief Vice-Admiral Ioannis Drymoussis representing HNDGS Chief, HAFGS Chief Lieutenant General (AF) Georgios Blioumis, HAGS Chief Lieutenant General Charalambos Laloussis, and the Director General of the General Directorate of Defence Investments and Armaments Vice-Admiral (ret.) Aristeidis Alexopoulos.

■ **HELLENIC ARMY**

➔ **Replacement Hellenic Army’s military vehicles**

Hellenic Army General Staff plans the replacement of 10,000 Mercedes and Steyr vehicles, trucks and

the jeeps. Estimated budget that is in the area of 550 million euros, attracts all major military vehicle manufacturers. Main candidates are considered, the French companies Nexter and Arquus, the US company Oshkosh Corporation, the Italian Iveco, the German MAN Group, The Polish Tatra and the Israeli Plasan.

HELLENIC NAVY

The new frigate of the Hellenic Navy

On Saturday 5 June 2021, the MOD Political and Military Leadership during a meeting held in Prime Minister office presented the results of the evaluation of the proposals submitted to the Hellenic Navy related to the four new frigate acquisition program. Candidate shipyards have been shortlisted from the following countries in alphabetical order: France, Germany, Holland, Italy, the United Kingdom, the USA.

The meeting chaired by the Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis was also attended by the Minister of National Defence Mr. Nikolaos Panagiotopoulos, HNDGS Chief General Konstantinos Floros, HNGS Chief Vice-Admiral Stylianos Petrakis, Ministry of Defence Secretary General Mr. Antonios Economou, GDDIA General Director Mr. Aristides Alexopoulos, National Security Advisor Mr. Thanos Dokos and Prime Minister's Secretary General Mr. Grigorios Dimitriadis.

Signing of Research and Development Contract DECISMAR

On the 25th of June 2021, upon authorization of the Minister of National Defence, the No 03/21 "Development of a Decision Support Toolbox for enhancing the feasibility study of the Upgrade of Maritime Surveillance through the integration of legacy assets with new innovative solutions - DECISMAR" Research and Development Contract was signed between the GDDIA and the consortium of European entities legally represented by its coordinator "ETME PEPPAS AND ASSOCIATES LIMITED PARTNERSHIP" domestic company.

HELLENIC AIR FORCE

FMSO II, CLSSA SERVICES

The State Department has recently made a determination approving a possible Foreign Military

Sale to the Government of Greece of FMSO II, CLSSA Services, and related equipment for an estimated cost of \$165 million. The Defense Security Cooperation Agency delivered the required certification notifying Congress of this possible sale.

The Government of Greece has requested to buy U.S. Government, technical, and logistics support services and requisitions supporting the Foreign Military Sales Order II (FMSO II) and Cooperative Logistics Supply Support Arrangement (CLSSA) for

stock replenishment, supply of standard spare parts, and repair/replace of spare parts to support the Hellenic Air Force's defensive and transport aerial fleets; all other aircraft systems and subsystems; and other related elements of program support. The estimated total cost is \$165 million. This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security objectives of the United States by helping to improve the security of a NATO ally, which is an important partner for political stability and economic progress in Europe.

The proposed sale will improve Greece's capability to meet current and future threats by providing agile logistics support to active Foreign Military Sales support cases, including Greece's defensive and transport aerial fleets, as well as other support equipment of U.S. origin that are currently in use with the Hellenic Air Force and which can be supported by the CLSSA program. The ability to place blanket order requisitions will increase its interoperability with NATO forces and enhance its ability to provide for the security of its borders. Greece has demonstrated a continued commitment to modernizing its military and will have no difficulty absorbing this equipment into its armed forces. There are no principal contractors for this proposed sale. There are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale. Implementation of this proposed sale will not require the assignment of any additional U.S. Government or contractor representatives outside the United States.

HELLENIC DEFENCE INDUSTRY

Hellenic Defence Systems S.A

On 16 June 2021, the Minister of National Defence Mr. Nikolaos Panagiotopoulos presented during the

Parliament Plenary Session's discussion on the Draft Law of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs "On the Protection of Labour", an amendment which aims to establish the unobstructed granting of tax and insurance clearance, as well as the suspension of

enforcement and administrative procedures, at the expense of the movable and the immovable property of the “Hellenic Defence Systems” S.A. In his statement the Minister highlighted the following:

The MoD Amendment submitted under Submission No. : 929 Special No. 62/11-6-2021 to the Draft Law of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs entitled: “For the Protection of Labour – Establishment of an Independent Authority “Labour Inspection” – Ratification of Convention 190 of the International Labour Organisation to eradicate violence and harassment in the world of work- Ratification of Convention 187 of the International Labour Organisation in the context of the Promotion of Occupational Safety and Health – Incorporating the EU Directive (E.E.) 2019/1158 of the European Parliament and Council dated 20 June 2019 on the work-life balance, concerns the support of the work executed by and securing the sustainability of the Hellenic Defence Systems S.A, one of the basic pillars of the domestic defence industry.

By means of the proposed provisions articles 125 and 126 of law 4446/2016 are amended and we aspire to the unobstructed granting of tax and insurance clearance, as well as the suspension of enforcement and administrative procedures at the expense of the movable and the immovable property of the “Hellenic Defence System” S.A. for another twelve (12) months, i.e., until 22 June 2022.

This will decisively facilitate the further participation of the HDS S.A. in public tenders concerning works or procurements, as well as the collection of money by the public sector and the continuation of its operation and involvement in the production and trading of weapons, ammunition and war material, together with the conclusion of pending contracts with the Hellenic State, elements inextricably linked with national defence and security.

This way we will secure the proper functioning of the administrative procedures of the HDS S.A. which will allow it to continue providing its unimpeded support to the mission of the Armed Forces. This is why we deem the voting for the proposed provision absolutely necessary.

ACTIVITIES OF FOREIGN INDUSTRIES IN GREECE RELATED TO THE HELLENIC ARMED FORCES ARMAMENTS PROGRAMS

→ THYSSENKRUPP

On 29 June 2021, a meeting was held between the GDDIA General Director, Vice Admiral (Rtd) Aristeidis Alexopoulos HN and JOACHIM SCHÖNFELD Senior

Vice President of THYSSENKRUPP, following his request. During the meeting, issues of common interest were discussed.

→ ATLAS ELEKTRONIK

On 23 June 2021, a meeting was held between the GDDIA General Director, Vice Admiral (Rtd) Aristeidis Alexopoulos HN and representatives of Atlas Company led by the Chief Executive Officer Mr. Peter Michael Ozegowski following their request. During the meeting, issues of common interest were discussed.

NATO

→ NATO Secretary General reaffirms NATO's commitment to its KFOR mission and to stability in the Western Balkans

On 1st July 2021, NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg travelled to the NATO-led Kosovo Force (KFOR), where he met with the KFOR Commander (Major General Franco Federici), personnel from 27 troop contributing nations (including NATO Allies and partners), and the Director of the NATO Advisory and Liaison Team (Brigadier General Jörg RÜTER). NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg and the Commander of KFOR, Major General Franco Federici

“The fact that we are so many nations here from NATO allied countries, but also from some partner nations demonstrates the strength of our mission. It demonstrates the commitment by many nations to stability and peace in Kosovo and in this region,” the NATO Secretary General said. “KFOR mission is important not only for Kosovo and for the region, but also for NATO and for all NATO allies, because we have seen throughout history that stability in this region matters for all of us. It matters for Europe, it matters for NATO,” he added.

“My main message today is to thank all the men and women serving in KFOR and I commend you for the way you have been able to cope with the pandemic, as you also conduct your important work in the KFOR mission,” the Secretary General pointed out. “For many years the operation in Afghanistan was the biggest, but as we speak shortly we’ll end that mission; KFOR will not only be the longest, but also the biggest NATO military operation,” he also said. During his visit, Secretary General Stoltenberg also held bilateral meetings with Ms. Vjosa Osmani, Mr. Albin Kurti and Mr. Goran Rakić. He restressed KFOR's continued efforts for the benefit of all communities living in Kosovo, and NATO's

steadfast support to the EU-facilitated Dialogue and other efforts aimed at the normalization of relations between Belgrade and Pristina.

ESDP

➔ New R&D project to focus on interoperability standards for unmanned systems



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The implementation of INTERACT ('Interoperability Standards for Unmanned Armed Forces Systems'), a project selected under the 2019 call for proposals for the EU Preparatory Action on Defence Research (PADR) managed by EDA, was officially launched at an online kick-off meeting on 21 June 2021.

The aim of this 1.5 M€ project, financed by the European Commission, is to create a basis for a future European interoperability standard for military unmanned systems. For that purpose, the technical knowledge and operational experience available in Europe on control, monitoring, and application of unmanned systems will be integrated for the concept definition of a future European cross-industry interoperability standard. This standard will allow unmanned assets to be deployed flexibly in different configurations, such as singular deployment, in manned-unmanned teaming or as autonomous swarms independent of organisational or national provenance.

For this project an important consortium of 19 members including research and technology organisations, small and medium-sized enterprises as well as large industrial groups has been set up by the consortium coordinator Fraunhofer-Institut für Optronik, Systemtechnik und Bildauswertung (IOSB). The fact that so many different entities are working together in this project was praised at the kick-off meeting as a very good start to set the way for a common unmanned systems standard. The contractual aspects of this project (which is based on a grant agreement) is managed by EDA under a

delegation agreement signed with the European Commission. By this agreement the Commission entrusts EDA with the management and implementation of the research projects launched within the PADR.

CYPRUS

➔ US-Cyprus military cooperation



A "Send - Off Ceremony" took place today at the US Embassy, for the first National Guard Officers who will participate in US training programs, in the framework of the International Military Education and Training (IMET) program. The event took place in the presence of the Minister of Defense Mr. Charalambos Petrides and the US Ambassador Mrs. Judith Garber.

ROMANIA

➔ NATO holds air defence exercise in the Black Sea

NATO air and maritime forces conducted air defence drills off Romania's coast on Friday (2 July 2021), ensuring that allied forces remain ready to operate together in the strategic Black Sea region. The one-day manoeuvres saw Greek and Turkish



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fighter jets prod the air defences of Standing NATO Maritime Group Two, which is currently in the region. A NATO Airborne Warning and Control System aircraft, Romanian fighter jets and a Turkish patrol aircraft supported the drill. Friday's exercise ran in parallel to Sea Breeze 2021 – a major annual naval exercise in the Black Sea - which involves 5,000 troops from NATO and other countries and around 30 ships and 40 aircraft.

KOSOVO

Kosovo acquires three Bastion armored personnel carriers (APC)

AM General, leading military-grade tactical vehicle and mobility systems provider, recently participated in a delivery ceremony for three Bastion armored personnel carriers (APC) to the Kosovo Ministry of Interior (MOI) for use with their police special forces. This delivery further strengthens the long partnership that AM General has with Kosovo, including having delivered nearly 200 HUMVEE vehicles over the last three years in support of the country's security efforts. The ceremony also marked the first completed order stemming out of a partnership agreement with Arquus, a global defense manufacturer of military mobility solutions.

"We are honored to have been selected by the Kosovo Police Service to provide a critical mobility solution in support of their law enforcement mission, continuing our long-held relationship with the region" said Nguyen Trinh, AM General Executive Vice President of International Defense. "This delivery serves as an example of the importance of our strategic partnership with Arquus to meet the demands of our international customers. Developed by Arquus, the Bastion is a 4x4, 12-ton personnel carrier that combines tactical performance, robust capability, high internal space and payload and simplified maintenance. It features

an armored hull that provides protection against ballistic threats, mines, and IEDs.

AM General recognized the strategic value that a vehicle like Bastion can have on the region and facilitated the sale of the vehicle to the Kosovo MOI. Having strong relationships in the region through the sale of its own battle-proven vehicles, the partnership with Arquus has given AM General's global customers access to an even wider range of defense products. The Bastion will continue to augment the Kosovo MOI's strategic protection initiatives, adding to the various high-quality, robust HUMVEE® vehicles delivered over the last three years including the HUMVEE 2-CT™ (M1152, 2-Door Cargo Truck), 4-CT™ (M1165, 4-Door Cargo Trucks) and 4-CT™ Fastback (M1151). The vehicles have various levels of armoring to support different army and police missions.

Minister Mehaj inspected the new U. S donation of the military armored vehicle and trainings at Shooting Range in TRADOC



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In the following visits through the KSF Units, Minister of Defense, Armend Mehaj, today visited Training and Doctrine Command in the barrack "Skënderbeu" in Ferizaj in order to get a closer look at the armored vehicles of the ASV type a new donation delivered by the U. S. In this occasion, the TRADOC Commander, BG. Irfete Spahiu received and briefed him regarding these vehicles as well as their current destination for purpose of training. According to Minister Mehaj, the current number of the military armored vehicles, ASV is solely the first part of contingent from the above –mentioned U. S donation that will be received in process. In the following, Minister Mehaj accompanied by Dep/Commander of TRADOC, Col. Mehmet Lladrovci also inspected the TRADOC Shooting Range, where he closely followed the training session of KSF members in shooting with firearms according to the plan of the Professional Training Center of the TRADOC

ELTA's Drone Guard C-UAV: Responding to Evolving Threats



The mission of detecting, neutralizing and when required, destroying drones and small UAVs (UAV) is made ever more difficult due to their low visibility and continually increasing sophistication. Anyone who followed the effective use of UAVs in the recent Nagorno-Karabakh conflict or the attack on Aramco's oil facilities in Saudi Arabia understands the gravity of threat. Moreover, deployment in swarms further exacerbates their ability to overcome defenses and cause harm.

Understanding the challenge is the first step in formulating an effective response. Both the means of detection and countermeasures must be appropriate to the operating environment and danger presented. For example, the use of kinetic weapons such as stabilized guns with advanced ammunition to provide effective area defense against swarms of drones/UAVs would not be the method of choice in populated urban environments. Likewise, the use of active jamming, while less violent, may still present an issue at airports as it could potentially interfere with vital communications. The level of threat is also an important factor. Costly sensors such as 3D radar and long range EO/Infrared systems, while often the choice of militaries - may not be required for less critical applications where COMINT alone can suffice.

Whatever the circumstances, it is clear that no single approach can provide comprehensive protection. Rather, a multi-layered solution is needed. For example, while sophisticated radars enable detection around the clock and in all weather conditions, their range may be hampered by the target's small size. Moreover, visual identification may still be necessary. But electro-optical systems, even those with SWIR mode, may be seriously hampered by weather. COMINT systems can detect communication protocols at longer ranges and in

civilian policing applications may be all that is necessary. But what if an attacking armed drone or UAV is flying autonomously? INS systems, aided by cameras, make this threat ever more plausible.

To successfully contend with these challenges, ELTA Systems Ltd., the advanced defense electronics subsidiary of Israel Aerospace Industries, the country's largest aerospace and defense concern, has developed the Drone Guard Counter drone/UAV (C-UAV) System. Combat proven and deployed with leading forces worldwide, ELTA's flexible Drone Guard is a multi-layer, multi-sensor, scalable system that is tailored to operational requirements. An open architecture enables the integration of a wide range of high-performance sensors, including: class leading 3D, X-band, 360° AESA radars; passive Communications Intelligence (COMINT) systems; and electro-optical (EO) systems. Drone Guard's highly evolved Command and Control (C2) System integrates all functions into a single unified system and provides operators with the tools needed to detect, classify and counter targets. Moreover, automated threat analysis incorporating innovative Artificial Intelligence (AI) based decision-making tools and highly evolved algorithms decreases operator workload and improves performance. The result is a highly effective, easily operated system.

Drone Guard offers a wide choice of solutions for threat mitigation: "cyber" takeover of the target's flight controls, disruption of its communication and/or navigation (GPS) protocol (COMJAM); or destruction when combined with a weapons system – the choices are extensive. The system can be installed on moving vehicles, fixed sites, and vessels. Moreover, an easily transportable semi-mobile version that is stored and carried in hard cases, and a lightweight fully mobile version carried on foot are available as well.

With its sophisticated and agile counter drone/sUAV capabilities and flexible, scalable configuration, Drone Guard is ideally positioned to secure civilian and military assets against the growing and continually evolving UAV menace. With numerous systems delivered to leading forces around the globe, ELTA's Drone Guard constitutes the most proven, effective and widespread C-UAV solution available today.



Greece's defense posture: National defence policy

The Hellenic National Defence Policy should be seen in the broader context of our comprehensive National Strategy and Policy. In fulfillment of its security components Greece's National Defence Policy is based both on an active foreign policy and capable armed forces.

The geostrategic position of Greece in conjunction with the strategic unity of the mainland and the insular complex reflect its specific security requirements and results to a continuous pursuit of our defence policy aims. Furthermore, the specific geography of the country, and the new security environment led to a Strategic Defence Review, the adoption of a joint doctrine and the reorganization and modernization of the Hellenic Armed Forces.

The National Defence of Greece is planned, determined, and implemented in the framework of a broad institutional, political and military concept, which consists of the following:

The Permanent Committee of National Defence and Foreign Affairs of the Parliament, which is responsible for the processing, examination and voting of the bills of law and law suggestions, concerning the Ministry of Defence.

The Governmental Council on Foreign Policy and National Defence (KYSEA), of which president is the Prime Minister, is the main decision-making body concerning National Defence issues, such as the Policy of National Defence, structure and leadership of the Armed Forces, major procurement and production programs of defence means and equipment, the Crisis Management System and the development of the Armed Forces in order to cover the needs of the country.

The Ministry of Defence (MOD). It is the governmental institution through which the organizational framework of the Armed Forces' administration is being reflected. The main organs of MOD, which contribute to the formation and implementation of the National Military Strategy and control the Armed Forces, are the following:





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- The Minister of Defence.
- The Deputy Minister or Ministers of National Defence.
- The General Secretary of Ministry of National Defence.
- The Council of Defence.
- The Joint Chiefs of General Staffs Council.
- The Chief/ Hellenic National Defence General Staff.
- The Higher Councils of the Services of the Armed Forces (Higher Naval Council-Higher Air Council-Higher Military Council).
- The Chiefs of General Staffs of the three Services.
- The Armed Forces of the country (Army, Navy, Air Force)
- The Staff of the Minister of Defence.
- The General Secretariat for Financial Planning and Defence Investments.

The Defence Council is the highest consultative organ of the Minister of Defence in issues, such as the force structure, armament and research programs, budget and program of public

investments and evaluation of circumstances that may affect the security or the relations of the Country with other states. It consists of the Minister of Defence, the Deputy Ministers of Defence, the Chiefs of the Army, Navy and Air Force National Defence General Staffs and other persons, which might be called in by the Minister of Defence.

The Joint Chiefs of General Staffs Council is composed of the Chiefs of Army, Navy and Air Force General Staffs of National Defence. Its duty is to submit proposals and pronouncements to the Minister of Defence, concerning issues like the national military strategy, the military evaluation of the situation, directions of defense planning, force structure of the Armed Forces, the general defence plan of the country, interservice Armed Forces action plans and shaping of the interservice operational doctrines and military agreements.

HELLENIC NATIONAL DEFENCE GENERAL STAFF

The Chief/ Hellenic National Defence General Staff conducts the HNDGS (Hellenic National Defence General Staff) and is the main adviser to the

National Defence and to the Minister of Defence on military issues. Through the Chiefs of General Staffs, he carries out the operational commanding of the Joint Headquarters and the units that come under them, as well as the rest forces, when it comes to the issues of operation plans implementation and the Crises management System implementation, conduction of operations outside the national territory and participation of the Armed Forces in the confrontation of special situations during peace time.

HNDGS constructs the National Military Strategy after taking into consideration the suggestions of the General Staffs of the Armed Forces Services and according to the directions of the Ministry of Defence he manages and proposes the priority of the armament programs and suggests the general policy directions and priorities on every operational objective.

As the current doctrine and concepts focuses on deterrence, the Chief of Defence (CHOD) is to provide the necessary military means and strategic options to reach our National Strategy goals. The state of high readiness of our forces during peacetime along with their effective response capability to any provocation, are the fundamental operational aspects shaping the Hellenic National Defence General Staff (HNDGS) role. Accordingly, within the overall framework of the Hellenic Defence

Policy, the HNDGS has a vital role in supporting its objectives which besides others include, securing the national territorial integrity, preserving and defending the national sovereignty and the legitimate rights of our country on land, at sea and in the air, optimize our participation in Alliances and International Organizations, contributing to the regional and international security and protecting the security of Greek citizens in case of disasters and civil emergencies.

The Higher Councils of the Branches of the Armed Forces (Higher Military Council, Higher Naval Council and Higher Air Force Council) decide or opine about issues that concern their Branch such as organizational, operational, armament, administrative, financial issues etc.

The Chiefs of General Staffs (of the Army, Navy, Air Force), (Chief/ Hellenic Army General Staff, Chief/ Hellenic Navy General Staff, Chief/ Hellenic Air Force General Staff) are responsible for the perfect organization, manning, armament, training, evaluation and preparation for war, readiness and utilization of their Branches, as their directors, according to the general directions and orders of the Minister of National Defence and the Chief of the Hellenic National Defence General Staff. The Chiefs of the Staffs administrate in whole the Forces of their Services, except for those who belong to the Joint Headquarters and propose the promotion of the legislative and regulative decrees, which concern to them.





Greece emphasizes the need for international cooperation remaining committed in supporting NATO, EU and UN operations, assuming its share of responsibilities to all endeavors.

As far as the international operations in Western Balkans are concerned, the importance Greece attaches to the security and prosperity of the region is reflected in our continuous support and participation in all of the missions and operations conducted.

Concerning the Hellenic contribution in international maritime operations, as a nation with a long naval tradition and commercial presence at seas around the world, Greece actively participates in all NATO Maritime Operations and in specifics in EU's Counter Piracy Operations since their initiation and will continue to support NATO maritime operations through her permanent contribution in the Standing Maritime Groups, "Operation ACTIVE ENDEAVOUR" and EU operation "ATALANTA".

Furthermore, we participate in a number of UN operations, with our more significant contribution in UNIFIL operation in Lebanon which we support since its initiation with one vessel and staff officers.

In addition, Greek officers are and have been deployed in various other peacekeeping operations around the world.

According to the National Defense Planning procedures, the implementation of our Joint Midterm Armaments Program for the period 2020-2030 aims to improve the rapid reaction capability, deployability, flexibility, mobility, interoperability of our Forces and to fulfill the country's obligations towards international organizations. Political and Military Leadership of the Hellenic Armed Forces focus on the acquisition of modern main weapon systems and means, force multipliers, in conjunction with the reduction of the operational cost.

CHOD's operational requirements and priorities on main armaments programs are mainly focused on the areas of improvement of existing capabilities, including, but not limited to, Air/Mar/Land Superiority, training, use of mil space applications, surveillance, SAR, etc.

HELLENIC ARMY

The Hellenic Army mission should be seen in the broader context of Hellenic Armed Forces

Comprehensive National Strategy and Policy. In fulfillment of its security components our National Defence Policy is based both on an active foreign policy and capable armed forces. The state of high readiness of the Hellenic Army's units during peacetime along with their effective response capability to any provocation, are the fundamental operational aspects shaping the Hellenic Army General Staff role. Accordingly, within the overall framework of the Hellenic Defence Policy, the Hellenic Army has a vital role in supporting its objectives which besides others include, securing the national territorial integrity, preserving and defending the national sovereignty and the legitimate rights of our country on land, optimize its participation in Alliances and International Organizations, contributing to the regional and international security and protecting the security of Greek citizens in case of disasters and civil emergencies.

The 21st century introduced significant changes to the global and European affairs, which necessarily brought new orientations to the Armed Forces' activities, such as peace keeping operations, humanitarian – social relief, countering asymmetric threats and terrorism, etc. The time factor, expressed in the term "rapid reaction", constitutes a standard based on which all planning and execution mechanisms of Hellenic Army activities are now assessed. By including all the above in the framework set by the National Defence Policy and the National Military Strategy, Greece envisages a modern, powerful, flexible, mobile Army at a state of high operational readiness that constitutes a reliable deterrence and rapid reaction force.

An Army adapted to the current and future national security and defence requirements, capable of responding to the country's international obligations in the best way possible, but mainly an Army whose personnel is characterised by high morale, professionalism and is mission oriented. Drastic and innovative interventions have already been made to its structure and operation for the next 15 years, focused on specific axes, which are the increase of operational readiness, realistic training, joint exercises, exploitation of emerging technologies, procurement of modern weapon systems and assets that will act as force multipliers, calculation of weapon systems' and assets' Life Cycle Cost, personnel-equipment-installations security, quality assurance, focus on personnel and balanced development of Arms and Branches, so that the planned operational capabilities of each of these are gradually harmonised with the whole Army's respective capabilities in order to avoid "technology gaps". The Hellenic Army, except for the above, also participates in international initiatives, multilateral and bilateral organisations (NATO, NRF, EU, FINABEL, etc.), always with the promotion of national interests and the contribution to the protection of International Law in mind. A significant part of the Army's activities regards its presence and contribution to areas such as: environmental protection, humanitarian relief, and assistance to the population in case of disasters.

The defence planning is based on the National Defence Policy and aims at changing political will in terms of forces and equipment.

The main threat remains the same for decades now,





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however, this is not the case with its aspects and its potential expressions in the operational/strategic environment, the most dangerous of which would be a complex provocation/crisis. In any case, the goal is to plan within the framework of the national defence policy to counter the “improbable” and the “unexpected”.

The main objective of our operational planning is the rapid reaction capability, as well as the increase army capability to conduct operations for an extensive time period without a reduction in performance rates.

Furthermore, which are related to the Hellenic Army's main mission, i the protection of the country's territorial integrity, the Hellenic Army is highly active in NATO and EU affairs.

The Hellenic Army's most important activity is training, which covers the greatest part of peacetime activities. Training, particularly on simulation systems, constitutes a factor of major importance for the Hellenic Army, being an integral part of its armaments programmes. The reasons are well known and obvious: resource saving, increase of the operational equipment's survivability, training on scenarios not permitted by the conditions on the training field, etc.

HELLENIC NAVY

The Chief of the Hellenic Navy General Staff (H.N.G.S.) has the complete Administration, Command and Control of the personnel, and its means. He is the Ministers of National Defence advisor and responsible of matters such as the organization, manning, equipment, education, evaluation, preparation for war, preparation and utilization of the staff, material/supplies of the Hellenic Navy and the naval Nation's supremacy according to the Minister's and to the co-ordination of the Chief of Hellenic National Defence General Staff's general directions The Chief of the Hellenic Navy General Staff participates as member in the Defence Council's meetings and he is also a member - with the right of vote - of the Council of the Chiefs General Staff. He chairs the Supreme Naval Council.

The Hellenic fleet is the spearhead of Greek naval power and one of the three major Naval Administrations named FLEET HEADQUARTERS (FH). The fleet is commanded by the Chief Admiral of the Fleet, whose headquarters are in Salamis Naval Base at Salamina island near Athens. When circumstances require the Chief Admiral transfers

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his headquarters onboard warships and commands from the front line.

The Fleet as a means of preventing any malicious action and protect national interests, is always in constant vigilance in order to:

- Guarantee our territorial integrity.
- Ensure our sovereignty in the Hellenic seas.
- Maintain open sea lines for communication and trade.
- Help maintain the high morale of the extensive coastal and island population.
- Participate in the state's social work in case of a disaster caused by natural events or other unforeseen circumstances.
- To contribute in search and rescue (SAR) incidents.
- The Navy in order to carry out its mission in the best possible way, has different types of ships. The need for the existence of various ship types is dictated by today's naval operations complexity.

The Hellenic Navy (HN) faces numerous challenges in its endeavor to accomplish its primary mission regarding the safeguarding of the country's territorial integrity and the promotion of national and allied interests. In that context, Hellenic Navy seeks to fully adapt our posture to the principles of jointness, by implementing the appropriate

command and force structures, maintaining the highest possible level of operational readiness, and investing on personnel professional education and training. Additionally, the Hellenic Navy seeks to create an enduring level of situational awareness of the maritime environment through a collaborative network of information systems across our seas. To achieve the above-mentioned objectives, the HN makes a constant effort to upgrade its forces' capabilities, especially in the areas of effective engagement, command and control, deployability, mobility and logistics sustainability.

Greece, apart from the challenges emanating from a national perspective, faces maritime challenges, risks and threats, in a regional and global context, such as piracy, smuggling, illegal immigration, human trafficking and environmental disasters. These challenges are inter-connected and should be jointly confronted. Security concerns regarding the oil or natural gas deposits in the eastern Mediterranean have stressed the importance of maritime security operations conducted by competent naval forces.

HELLENIC AIRFORCE

The country's geographical morphology renders the Air Power and, consequently the Hellenic Air Force

as the spearhead of our military power. Greece into adopting a Strategic Doctrine of DEFENDING-DETECTING nature. DETECTING constitutes the main axis of our defence concept in conjunction with, confronting threats, in combination with the tensions' systematic political de-escalation. Also, in the context of inter-service activities, the HAF contributes in the development of a defence mechanism capable of supporting National Defence Policy and in safeguarding our sovereign rights.

In addition, through a high performance and high degree of readiness system of training, equipment and maintenance, the HAF could react immediately to conduct intense and long-lasting air operations, in order to acquire and maintain dead level control of Greece FIR, in order to safeguard the country's air defence and provide air protection. Also, it is in position to support the other Services of the country's Armed Forces. In addition, in the context of the country's international obligations, the HAF offers personnel and assets in inter-alliance exercises, peacekeeping and humanitarian aid missions, thus actively contributing to the Greek foreign policy towards maintaining International Peace and Security. Moreover, during peacetime, HAF carries out significant work by conducting social welfare operations (firefighting,

air evacuations, etc) aiming at supporting the political sector in confronting emergency situations. Unambiguously, Greece's Air Power seems to be a major mean of its foreign policy toward on security and defence, and the ability to operate as a factor of deterring, through its ability to operate as a means of deterrence, coercion, denial and destruction.

The Chief of the Hellenic Air Force General Staff (HAFGS) is responsible for the organization, training and equipping of all military and civilian personnel of the Hellenic Air Force, serving in Greece and abroad. As a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Council, the General and other service Chiefs function as military advisors to the Minister of National Defence. The mission of the Tactical Air Force during peacetime, is the preparation and training of the Combat Units which are under it, the undertaking of missions at any moment and the co-operation with the other branches of the Armed Forces. During wartime it is the administration and coordination of the operations among the Units and the co-operation with the corresponding Major Formations of the Armed Forces to carry out these operations.



THE FDI HN, THE BEST FRIGATE FOR GREECE SOVEREIGNTY



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Naval Group has submitted as part of the French Team with MBDA and Thales an offer for the modernisation of the surface fleet of the Hellenic Navy. The French Team's offer is a comprehensive and robust package designed to ensure Greece has the best capabilities in the shortest timeframe with optimised costs.

The FDI HN is the only frigate offered to the Hellenic Navy capable of protecting efficiently high value units or area at sea, shore facilities, cities and Greek islands

The first FDI HN will be delivered in 2025 meaning that the needs of the HN will be addressed very quickly. The first of class of the French Navy is already in construction with a delivery expected in 2024.

The Hellenic frigates will be co-produced in Greece, with significant involvement of the French team. Construction of the 1st frigate in France will ensure operation by Greece in the shortest timeframe and secure the transfer of technology to allow the construction of 3 frigates in Greece.

Naval Group's Hellenic Industrial Participation plan will contribute to the construction of the FDI HN but also to the creation of a robust naval industrial ecosystem able to participate in the future to other national and international complex projects, directly or in partnership with Naval Group, sustaining hundreds of highly qualified jobs and generating long-term economic spin-offs in Greece for decades to come.

THE FDI HN, THE BEST RESPONSE TO THE NEEDS OF THE HELLENIC NAVY

The FDI HN is a compendium of the best technologies from the European defence industries Thales, MBDA and Naval Group. The Aster missiles onboard can be engaged very quickly in all directions, at long range and ensure an unmatched hit-to-kill capability, making it possible to defeat saturating attacks especially against very agile targets.

The FDI HN will be a power and sovereignty asset for Greece. Fitted with up to 32 ASTER Anti-Air missiles or with a combination of ASTER and MICA NG Anti-Air missiles, 21 RAM (Close-in Weapon System), 8 Exocet MM 40 Block 3 new generation long range anti-ship missile system, MU 90 lightweight torpedoes and 76 mm gun, she offers unrivalled capabilities for the permanent control of air and sea space and autonomy of action, in support of the political and military objectives set.

Like all Naval Group frigates, the FDI HN will be fully interoperable with NATO and EU Navies' fleets. She will be capable of assuming all multimission roles within any kind of allied fleet and within the HN fleet.

FDI HN offers outstanding performances in deterrence and intervention underwater in a complex theatre of operations such as the Aegean Sea, particularly in combination with the projection capability provided by the S70B or MH60/R helicopter she carries.

Her complete sonar suite (hull and towed) offers unrivalled detection performance. Its high-level performance is further enhanced by her low acoustic signature, making it extremely difficult to detect by an enemy submarine. The implementation of the Thales Captas sonar suite, towed and hull mounted sonars, received the "Hookem anti-submarine warfare excellence Award" in 2020 from the Admiral commanding the US 6th Fleet.

Finally, the MU90 provides the capability to neutralize any type of submarine in the most severe environments, in shallow or deep water, and CANTO® represents a breakthrough in the field of anti-torpedo defence as the Naval Group counter-measure applies a unique concept to defend the frigate.

FDI HN also has a new capacity against asymmetric threats thanks to an innovative concept, organized around a new operational logic focused on these threats. The frigate has a dedicated room, offering a permanent 360° tactical optronic vision, day and night, enabling her to deal with nearby threats thanks to the rapid and secure use of lethal and non-lethal effectors.

THE FDI, THE FIRST FRIGATE OF THE NEW GENERATION AT SEA

The FDI HN is based on the FDI, the first digital frigate. The first of class for the French Navy is already in production in Naval Group shipyard in Lorient to be delivered in 2024.

The FDI possesses five essential qualities for the permanent control of the air-sea space.

1. Thales SEA FIRE radar, the first fully digital radar with four fixed antennas based on AESA and GaN technology, provides access to a surveillance volume of several hundred kilometres and is capable of detecting stealth threats, from unmanned vehicles to hypersonic missiles. Its extended anti-aircraft capability enables it to provide protection, defense and intervention against the most effective airborne threats.
2. The FDI offers integrated firing chains with high reactivity and extreme precision. Her missiles, associated with the SEAFIRE radar, are specifically designed to respond to all types of missile threats, in particular supersonic, and are in service within the French Navy and several other European navies. They guarantee exceptional performances in the field of anti-missile defence, in particular thanks to its unique force piloting system. These performances have been recently confirmed by the French Navy hit to kill with only one ASTER against supersonic missiles. The automatic processing provided by TEWA (Threat Evaluation and Weapon Assignment) enhances the performance of this firing chain.
3. A multi-source and fully interoperable information system is essential in today's complex environments. The FDI systems are integrated by the SETIS Combat Management System, providing the ship with a real multi-threat processing capacity thanks to the quality and precision of the tactical situation, made possible by the fusion of data from all the sensors on board.
4. FDI resilience is highly performant thanks to Naval Group's know-how and great care in design. Ease of use thanks to ergonomic interfaces allows for reliable and efficient weapon direction. FDI capitalizes on the reliability benefits of the Navy's operational feedbacks from the Horizon frigates for anti-air warfare capabilities and from the FREMM frigates for anti-submarine warfare capabilities.

Self-protection is reinforced by the latest-generation electronic warfare system. The cyber threat is considered right from the ship's design stage by a system that makes the ship highly resilient in this area, protecting all the ship's equipment and functional chains. Finally, the architectural choices make the frigate highly survivable in combat actions, owing to her very low signatures (RCS, IR, ...) that makes her difficult to hit and her highly resistance level to combat damage. The propulsion system, all the critical services on board, the data centers and the damage control system are totally redundant and the ship is divided into two zones separated by a double watertight bulkhead resistant to missile effects. The two onboard data centers are designed around a cloud-type distributed digital architecture which enables the ship's systems to be immediately reconfigured in the event of combat damage.

5. FDI will also benefit from the highest level of availability of its fleet for a reduced cost of ownership thanks to:
 - Innovative technical solutions proposed in terms of maintainability
 - the ability of manufacturers to provide proven and high-performance support solutions,
 - basing all ship level Through-Life Support operations in Greece.

The physical and digital infrastructures of the FDI guarantee an evolutionary potential that will ensure that the Hellenic Navy will be able to deal with emerging and future threats over the life of the ship (UAVs, Cyber, anti-ship ballistic missiles, hypersonic missiles, stealth threats underwater or above water, etc.).

Added to the stealth design, FDI HN presents an inverted bow which allows to increase significantly ship's speed in rough seas from ahead while reducing slamming and contributes to reduce radar cross section of the bow. All these benefits have been tested and verified by DGA and French Navy during test basin trials.



SEA CEPTOR TO PROTECT ROYAL NAVY'S NEW TYPE 31 FRIGATES

MBDA's Sea Ceptor system will protect the Royal Navy's new Type 31 frigates under a contract awarded by the UK Ministry of Defence.

Sea Ceptor is the world's most modern naval air defence system of its class. Utilising the Common Anti-Air Modular Missile (CAMM), it offers both world-leading close-in air defence and local-area air defence. The system will allow the Type 31 to protect simultaneously both itself and vessels near it from attack from current and future threats, including high-speed manoeuvring missiles, attack aircraft and fast inshore attack craft.

Eric Beranger, CEO of MBDA, said: "We are very pleased to mark this latest success for the CAMM family. Sea Ceptor was designed to change the game in naval air defence and, with Type 31 the latest in a growing list of ship classes that Sea Ceptor has been chosen to protect, it is rapidly delivering on this promise."

The new contract includes integration of Sea Ceptor with the Type 31's systems, along with delivery and installation of ship hardware for the Type 31 programme. Designed and made in the UK, the contract forms part of the Portfolio Management Agreement (PMA), a partnership initiated in 2010 between the UK MoD and MBDA on sovereign complex weapons design and production. The PMA delivers world-beating military equipment for the UK Armed Forces and has secured over 4,000 jobs at MBDA UK while generating savings worth over £1.2 billion.

Sea Ceptor is currently in service on the Royal Navy's Type 23 frigates and will also protect the new Type 26 frigates. The UK Ministry of Defence maintains a common stockpile of CAMM missiles for both the Royal Navy and British Army. The CAMM missile family has been selected by a growing list of other nations for both naval and land-based air defence.

Sea Ceptor is the next-generation, ship-based, all-weather, air defence weapon system. Through the use of new advanced technologies, Sea Ceptor provides complete protection against all known and projected air targets.

Sea Ceptor will protect both the host ship and high value units in the local area. The Weapon System has the capability to intercept and thereby neutralise the full range of current and future threats including combat aircraft and the new generation of supersonic anti-ship missiles. Capable of multiple channels of fire, the system will also counter saturation attacks.

CHARACTERISTICS

- Weight: 99 kg
- Length: 3.2 m
- Diameter: 166 mm
- Range: In excess of 25 km
- Speed: Supersonic



Nexter and CKP Engineering experiment predictive maintenance on the Leclerc tank

The SIMMT (Structure intégrée de maintien en condition opérationnelle des matériels terrestres) has awarded Nexter and CKP Engineering a contract to test predictive maintenance on the Leclerc tank. The project was born in March 2020, a few months after the Forum Entreprises Défense (FED), during which CKP Engineering was hosted by the MCO-T and the GICAT in the show's innovation area. The SIMMT wanted CKP to join forces with a military vehicle manufacturer to carry out a predictive maintenance experiment on the oil circuit of a vehicle. Wishing to instrument the engine of the Leclerc tank, CKP logically turned to Nexter to collaborate on the project.

In concrete terms, after the launch of a pre-study phase, this order enables the integration of HUMS-type sensors and post-processing algorithms supplied by CKP Engineering on the engine oil circuit of a Leclerc demonstrator. After several days of testing, the data collected will be analyzed jointly by teams from CKP and Nexter's Customer Services Department (CSD), who will publish their results in the fall of 2021. This type of collaboration, where a French industrial prime contractor and a young French company share their skills, is one of the objectives promoted by the SIMMT as part of the MCO-T 2025 strategic plan.

CKP Engineering, an innovative company founded by Julien Ferrazzo, is recognized for its powertrain architectures (engine, gearbox and transmissions). In addition to its network of experts and agile, high-performance industrial partners, CKP brings to this project more than 15 years of expertise in operational predictive maintenance solutions.

For its part, Nexter is relying on the technical expertise and experience acquired over the past ten years in the in-service support of the Leclerc tank. By taking part in this experiment, Nexter also intends to capitalize on its investments made as part of the ERMES program (2019-2021), which consisted of deploying HUMS sensors on a fleet of 40 VBCIs in the Mourmelon and Canjuers training grounds. The analysis of the field data is now shared with the French defense procurement agency (DGA) and the SIMMT in order to optimize the management of this vehicle fleet.

Julien Ferrazzo, founder of CKP Engineering, is delighted with this partnership: "We are bringing together the best of both worlds. More than a vehicle, Nexter brings us architects who have experience in the field. Together, we are sure to succeed. Thanks to this fusion of know-how, we are able to adapt maintenance to each tank. Nourished, unfiltered exchanges with total confidence from experts who know the vehicle's constraints perfectly."

Michel Fornos, head of the innovation and training department within Nexter's Customer Services Department, believes that "this experiment has the great merit of showing the operational reality of predictive maintenance, which makes it possible to consider its deployment on all or part of the fleets in service."



Extension of BOEING - INTRACOM DEFENSE cooperation in the USAF AWACS upgrade program

INTRACOM DEFENSE (IDE), signed a contract with the US company BOEING, a global leader in aerospace, defense and security, for the participation in US Air Force (USAF) Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS) aircraft upgrade program, in the frame of an international tender.

With this new award, IDE extends its existing cooperation with BOEING in the AWACS program and establishes further its position in the global aerospace domain, as a manufacturer of high-quality products and a trusted Supplier to the world's leading aerospace and defense companies.

INTRACOM DEFENSE (IDE) is a highly acclaimed Defense Systems Company in Greece, with an outstanding record of participation in domestic programs and exports to quality-driven international customers.



IDE utilizes high-end technologies in the design and development of advanced products in the areas of Missile Electronics, Tactical IP Communications, C4I Systems, Surveillance, Hybrid Electric Power Systems, and Unmanned Systems.

The Company retains its international recognition through the long-standing participation in European and NATO new technology development programs. Utilizing advanced production capabilities and large-scale project management know-how, IDE is a key player in the high technology sector of the Hellenic Defense Industry.



Extension of Co-operation between Intracom Defense and Diehl Defence in the IRIS-T family of missile systems

Intracom Defense (IDE) extends its cooperation with German based Diehl Defence with the receipt of new orders for the continuation of production of crucial electronic missile components and the design & manufacturing of Ground support equipment for the IRIS-T family of air & surface launched missile systems.

IDE's innovative airborne & missile electronics operate reliably over demanding environments and are based on key factors such as:

- IDE's world class technology and experience in the area of high data-rate military wireless systems, characterized by communication link robustness, security and high degree of jamming immunity.

- Specialized, in-house high-speed electronics and advanced mechanical design capabilities, that allow for the development of applications with very demanding low size, weight, power and cost (SWaP-C) requirements.

Moreover, IDE concluded recently all qualification tests of the re-designed Field Test Equipment (FTE) eliminating all obsolescence issues. This new FTE design offers an improved cost solution (a new electronics kit) with enhanced reliability.

"This continuation of the successful co-operation with Diehl Defence in the IRIS-T family of missile systems confirms not only IDE's competitiveness and advanced technological level in cutting-edge technologies, but also acknowledges the valuable technical and logistics support that our company provides to our industrial partners and customers, as well as to the international and Greek Armed Forces", stated Mr. George Troullinos, CEO of IDE.



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Rafael unveils: Sea Breaker

Sea Breaker utilizes Rafael's technological innovations such as electro-optics, computer vision, Artificial Intelligence and decision-making algorithms for full operational capability in GNSS-denied environments for maritime superiority missions

Rafael Advanced Defense Systems Ltd. unveils Sea Breaker™, a 5th generation long range, autonomous, precision-guided missile system, enabling significant attack performance against a variety of high-value maritime and land targets.

Sea Breaker is a naval and artillery unit force-multiplier, designed to overcome the modern warfare arena challenges, using Rafael's legacy of high-end precision-guided solutions.

Sea Breaker provides surgical, pin-point precision strikes from stand-off ranges of up to 300 km. It features an advanced IIR (Imaging Infra-Red) seeker, ideal for engagement of maritime and land targets, stationary or moving, in advanced Anti Access/Area Denial (A2/AD) arenas, and in littoral or brown water, including archipelago, as well as for engagements in which previous generation RF-seeker-based missiles are not effective.

Sea Breaker can be launched from naval platforms, varying in size, from fast attack missile boats to corvettes and frigates.

The land version is a central part of the shore defense, based on Rafael's highly mobile SPYDER launchers. The battery architecture supports standalone launchers, or operation as an integrated solution, with a command-and-control Unit (CCU) and various sensors, based on customer requirements.

Using Artificial Intelligence, Sea Breaker performs deep-learning and big data-based scene-matching, a unique combat-proven Rafael technology, enabling Automatic Target Acquisition (ATA) and Automatic Target Recognition (ATR). The system has full operational capability in GNSS-denied arenas, in all weather conditions. The missile is ECM immune and jam resilient. Sea Breaker's mission profile enables sea-skimming and terrain-following low-level flight above ground.

Flying at high subsonic speeds, Sea Breaker has a multi-directional, synchronized full sphere attack capability, based on predefined attack plans, according to waypoints, azimuth, impact angle and aim point selection, ensuring a high probability of mission success, with a 250 lb. penetration, blast and fragmentation warhead, making a single hit effective enough to neutralize a frigate-sized ship.

The missile's datalink supports real-time man-in-the-loop decision-making and tactical updates. It also features a mid-flight abort capability and Battle Damage Assessment (BDA).



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2018 key figures

Pearson Engineering has completed the company's first virtual Factory Acceptance

Pearson Engineering is a world-leading provider of counter-mine, counter-improvised explosive device (IED), counter-obstacle and bridging products for armoured fighting vehicles.

Pearson Engineering provides proven battlefield mobility solutions to enhance the tactical capabilities of Armoured Vehicles. Products are provided as vehicle attachments which are optimised for specific combat engineering roles and can be configured to support the most challenging operational demands.

A common interface system acts as the connection between the vehicles and our attachments. Front-End Equipment (FEE) can be quickly attached, released, interchanged, or jettisoned in an emergency. Attachments are vehicle agnostic and are optimised for the host vehicle.

When enduring the ongoing threats of landmines, IEDs cluster munitions and other challenges to mobility, Pearson Engineering range of products provides Commanders with freedom of manoeuvre. Products meet military requirements for survivability and mobility; they are battle proven and have undergone extensive field tests to meet the needs of the mission.

Undeterred by the current restrictions on global travel, Pearson Engineering has completed the company's first virtual Factory Acceptance Test (FAT) for mw370, as part of a U.S Government Foreign Military Sales contract to provide mine clearance vehicles to a Middle Eastern customer. The milestone was achieved using a combination of technologies to allow Government contract officers the same access as would be achieved in person whilst on different continents.

The 27-hour FAT took place over nine sessions in a two-week period hosted by Principal Project Manager, Steve Fenton, and supported by key project engineers within the company. It was successful in demonstrating static and dynamic tests, operations and inspections leading to progress in the vehicle acceptance process.

The new approach marks a broadening of the services that can be offered to customers and opens up opportunities for more environmentally sustainable practices where contracts allow.

Steve Fenton said "Pearson Engineering has always been known for doing all it can to meet and exceed customer expectations. It has been shown in our response to urgent operational requirements, product development and field support. Presented with the challenges associated with Covid-19, we knew we had to work to meet the high standards expected of us and quickly adapted our plan to include a virtual Factory Acceptance Test. We now look ahead to delivering operator and maintainer training."

The mine clearance machines delivered against this contract are MW370 vehicles with tillers. The systems are designed for large area clearance of ERW (Explosive Remnants of War) and can cover 30,000m² clearance per day. The 367hp engine can power tillers, flails, and other tools to achieve clearance in a variety of ground conditions. The news follows Pearson Engineering's successful and safe presence at IDEX in Abu Dhabi, despite the challenges posed by Covid-19.

Head of Strategic Marketing and Communications, Nicola Irving said "It is important to us that we continue to find ways to serve our customers, partners and end-users in the Middle East to support their peacekeeping and security efforts in the region. Our 'hybrid' presence at IDEX was made possible through collaboration with an Emirati partner and the use of technology to facilitate live conversations with our team in the UK. Our recent work across the Middle Eastern Region has been really positive and we've learnt a lot about new ways to get capability into the hands of end-users more quickly."



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IAI Signs a US\$200 Million UAS Services Contract with a Country in Asia



Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) recently signed a US\$ 200 million contract to provide unmanned aerial systems (UAS) services to a country in Asia, relating to IAI's Heron unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV). This is the fourth major UAS transaction that IAI has announced this year.

The Heron family leads IAI's range of UAVs. The various Heron models are used regularly for operational missions by over 20 customers worldwide. Controlled remotely from sea frigates or the seashore, the Heron supports ground and maritime missions against submarines and coastal guards. It transmits information while at sea,

including between all the weapon systems participating in a mission. The Heron UAS may be fitted with LOS or SATCOM communication, and features "long runner" operational flexibility with automated remote takeoff, landing, and control with no need for deploying a control post near the runway.

IAI President and CEO, Boaz Levy, said, "The deal is a testament to our customers' strong satisfaction with the Heron UAVs, including their operational and technical performance. Our customers repeatedly choose the Heron for its broad range of intelligence collection missions in different ground and weather settings."

IAI's UAS know-how and experience have been accumulated over nearly 50 years, representing two million aggregate flight hours and over 50 customers worldwide. This expertise is in addition to IAI's service as a center for national and global technological know-how in the areas of air defense, radar systems, satellites, remotely piloted vehicles, assault missiles, aviation, and cyber.

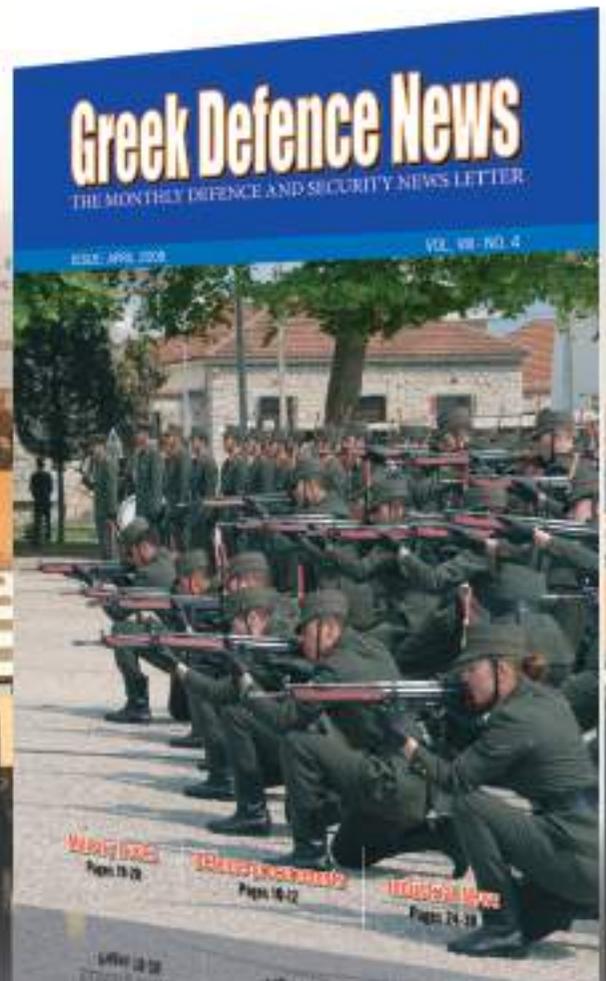
Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) is a world-leading aerospace and defense company innovating and delivering state-of-the-art technologies in space, air, land, naval, cyber & homeland security for defense and commercial markets. Combining the "Start-up Nation" spirit of innovation with decades of combat-proven experience, IAI provides customers with tailor-made, cutting-edge solutions to the unique challenges they face, including satellites, UAVs, missiles, intelligence solutions, weapon systems, air defense systems, robotic systems, radars, business jets, aerostructures, and more. Established in 1953, IAI is one of Israel's largest technology employers with offices and R&D centers in Israel and abroad.





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