

Multi-purpose and modular launching system (MPLS): Naval Group joins forces with Thales and KNDS to develop this new equipment

On the occasion of Euronaval 2024, Naval Group signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Thales and KNDS to work on integrating their solutions into the multipurpose and modular launching system (MPLS). A true technological breakthrough in the service of operational superiority, the MPLS responds to asymmetric and protean threats. It enables the deployment of multiple effectors, with unprecedented payload capacity and simplified onboard integration.

A single launcher for multiple means of self-defense. Moving away from the "one launcher per type of weapon" approach, the introduction of the MPLS represents a completely new system concept. The MPLS features interchangeable ammunition modules that can be reconfigured according to operational requirements, providing a wide range of effectors (rockets, missiles, grenades, underwater weapons, decoys, UAVs) to respond to different threats in a cost-effective manner.

Ammunition carrying capacity is increased, with a payload of around 1,000 kilos. In addition, a ship can be fitted with one or more MPLS turrets, which can combine different weapon configurations.

Comprising a turret that can move on two axes, in circle and elevation, the MPLS integrates firing computers and a fire control system that enables it to hit maneuvering targets. It can operate in stand-alone mode or connected to the combat system. This new-generation weapon system offers a fleet-wide approach, optimizing logistical support and crew training. A real guarantee of economic gains, but also of operational availability.

The MPLS introduces not only a completely new system concept, but also a new partnership concept for product development and marketing. As the system is designed to be adaptable to different ammunition, depending on the needs of the operational user, Naval Group works with its partners to integrate each ammunition module.

- Thales, with 70 and 68 mm rockets, Lightweight Multi-role Missiles (LMM)
- KNDS with its range of innovative ammunition

Work has also begun with MBDA on integrating Mistral and Akeron families missiles.

Naval Group brings its expertise in ships and naval combat systems, and its experience in integrating weapons systems and equipment on naval platforms. Each industrial partner contributes its expertise in ammunition, performance and operational use, including in other combat domains.

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