

# Greek Defence News

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EAST EUROPEAN REGION

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***Hellenic Armed Forces  
Modernization***

**Prime Minister: The New Defense Programs  
are Investments in Sovereignty**



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## Hellenic Armed Forces Modernization

On 2 APRIL 2025, Greek **Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis** announced a landmark €25 billion investment over 12 years Long-Term Defense Armament Planning, in what he described as the “most drastic transformation in the history of the country’s armed forces.” This ambitious defense strategy marks a significant pivot toward high-tech warfare capabilities.

### Key Highlights of the Strategy:

**Hellenic Army:** The major armament program for Hellenic Army Infantry Units is the new Infantry Fighting Vehicle (IFV). The program is about 205 new IFV’s for Hellenic Army Mechanized Battalions. Moreover, the acquisition of 100 new Wheeled Infantry Fighting Vehicles is currently under consideration. Emphasis on UAV and Counter Drone SYSTEMS integration and consideration of new multiple rocket launcher systems. Hellenic Army General Staff is planning to acquire new rifles to replace several old Heckler and Koch G3A3 rifles with modern rifles for the Infantry Mechanized Battalions as well as plans also the modernization of 10,000 rifles G3A3 in cooperation with the state-owned Hellenic Defense Systems as prime contractor. Hellenic Army General Staff is planning to acquire new equipment for modern warfare such as ballistic protection plate carriers, level III and level IV anti-ballistic plates, chest rigs, assault backpacks, anti-ballistic goggles, modern anti-ballistic helmets, and tactical gloves.

**Hellenic Navy:** The new Long-Term Defense Armament Planning is played by the programs of the Hellenic Navy General Staff (HNGS), with key projects including: acquisition of the fourth FDI frigate, potential acquisition of FREMM frigate from Italian Navy, potential acquisition of US Constellation-class frigates, modernization of MEKO frigates, The procurement of new strategic strike Scalp Naval missiles, the construction of new submarines (2+2 units), and the upgrade of Super Vita-class missile boats and Type 214 submarines. Furthermore, Long-Term Defense Armament Planning highlights Greece’s participation in the construction program for the next-generation U.S. Constellation-class frigates, as well as in the European Patrol Corvette (EPC) program. Both programs are projected for implementation between 2030 and 2037, as they are still in an early stage with no clear cost, configuration, or timeline established.

**Hellenic Air Force:** Greece plans to acquire 20 + 20 option F-35 fighter jets and develop the “Achilles’ Shield” air, missile, and anti-drone defense system, F-16 Block 50 modernization and technical support for the Rafale F3R fleet (budgeted at €600 million). Acquisition of additional Rafale jets to form two full squadrons, enabling the retirement of Mirage 2000-5 Mk2, modernization of the Air Control System (ACS) and upgrade of Airborne Early Warning and Control (AEW&C) aircraft, replacement of aging S-300 PMU1 and “Velos” close-range air defense systems, upgrades to PATRIOT air defense systems and installation of new radar stations to replace outdated units, replacement of obsolete AB-205 search and rescue helicopters, acquisition of a new generation of tactical transport aircraft, and modernization of the C-27J Spartan fleet.





A large, eight-wheeled armored vehicle with a camouflage paint scheme of green, brown, and tan is shown in motion on a dirt road. The vehicle has a turret on top with a long barrel and various sensors. The background is a blurred landscape with trees and a blue sky with clouds. A large, semi-transparent diagonal graphic element is overlaid on the left side of the image.

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These efforts reflect the HAF's strategic emphasis on improving air defense, surveillance, and operational readiness, supporting the broader goal of a more modern and capable Greek Armed Forces. Greece is staking its claim with an ambitious new project dubbed Achilles Shield. The system, which is expected to be operational by 2027, is being hailed by the Hellenic Ministry of Defence as the centerpiece of a sweeping military modernization program.

Described by **Greek Minister of National Defence Nikos Dendias** as encompassing anti-missile, anti-aircraft, anti-drone, anti-ship, and anti-submarine capabilities, **Achilles Shield** aims to relieve frontline defense tasks from fighter jets and naval ships, enabling them to operate more flexibly across broader operational theaters.

While specific system components have not been disclosed, the €2.8 billion initiative forms part of a broader €25 billion defense upgrade plan that will span the next 12 years. Aimed at enhancing the capabilities of the Hellenic Armed Forces, the 12-year initiative will focus on advanced technology integration and addressing existing shortcomings.

The plan allocates €2–2.5 billion annually, building on €15 billion already spent since 2020. It aligns with US and EU recommendations to strengthen European defense and could benefit from potential EU rule changes excluding military spending from deficit limits.

Despite ambitious goals, challenges persist, such as maintenance issues in aging aircraft and delays in the F-16 Viper upgrade. Budget constraints also cast

uncertainty over upgrading 38 F-16 Block 50 jets. Nonetheless, the initiative is poised to significantly boost Greece's defense capabilities across all branches. Greece remains in discussions with Israel about a possible collaboration based on the Iron Dome - Israel's battle-proven, short-range air defense system. While no formal agreement has been confirmed, such a partnership could influence the technical architecture of Achilles Shield. Israel's Iron Dome, a key component in its multi-layered air defense network, has intercepted thousands of rockets, drones, and cruise missiles, drawing international attention and demand. Greece's possible acquisition or adaptation of this technology signals a desire to mirror that success domestically.

In parallel, Greece is participating in the 23-nation, German-led Sky Shield initiative, aiming to establish a common European ground-based air defense capability. Minister Dendias emphasized Greece's broader strategic vision: "In the global geopolitical landscape, which is being rearranged and characterized by instability, we have a duty not to allow Greece to become a prey to developments." He positioned Achilles Shield as a symbol of Greek resilience and its role as a regional stabilizer in the Eastern Mediterranean.

The effort is part of a comprehensive **Agenda 2030** reform plan, set to transform Greece's armed forces with a focus on innovation and indigenous defense production. This includes initiatives like the Hellenic Center for Defense and Innovation, which has already launched tenders to attract domestic solutions - particularly in drone systems and artificial intelligence.







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## 50 YEARS OF CONTINUOUS PARTNERSHIP

Following the Mirage F1 in 1974, the Mirage 2000 in 1985 and the Mirage 2000-5 in 2000, the Rafale provides the Hellenic Air Force with the latest-generation fighter, enabling the Hellenic Republic, a leading European partner and a major member of NATO, to reinforce the protection of the country, to ensure its geopolitical stance in full sovereignty and to serenely address its strategic ambitions for the future.

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## Potential Acquisition of Bergamini-Class Frigates

Hellenic Navy's modernization is occurring against the backdrop of increasing geopolitical tensions in the Eastern Mediterranean.

Italy has offered Greece two FREMM-class frigates—the Carlo Bergamini (F 590) and Virginio Fasan (F 591)—which are set to become available after 2028. These ships are part of Italy's broader fleet modernization plan, where older Bergamini-class frigates will be replaced by the newer FREMM EVO units expected to enter service in 2029-2030. The offer aligns with Greece's ongoing efforts to address gaps in its surface combatant capabilities.

- Carlo Bergamini (F 590): This ship is a General Purpose (GP) frigate, primarily designed for surface warfare and air defense. It features a hull-mounted sonar system and advanced AESA radar, capable of detecting aerial threats beyond 300 km. It is armed with SYLVER A50 VLS for Aster 15 or 30 missiles, Otomat Mk-2/A anti-ship missiles, torpedo tubes, and heavy artillery (127 mm and 76 mm naval guns).
- Virginio Fasan (F 591): This Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) variant of the FREMM-class includes additional CAPTAS-4 sonar for detecting and prosecuting submarines, alongside the UMS 4110 CL sonar. It is equipped with Otomat Mk-2/A anti-ship missiles and MILAS anti-submarine missiles, making it highly specialized for ASW operations. Both ships feature a helicopter hangar capable of accommodating two 10-ton helicopters.
- These two frigates, both commissioned in 2013, share the same platform design with a length of 144.6 meters, a displacement of 6,700 tons, and a speed of 27 knots. They have an impressive range of 6,800 nautical miles at 15 knots, making them suitable for long-duration deployments.

Greece's current strategy involves modernizing its surface fleet, which includes:

- Three to four new Belharra-class frigates
- Upgrades of four MEKO 200HN frigates
- Upgrades of four Papanikolis-class submarines



*On 30 March 2025, the Minister of National Defense, Nikos Dendias, accompanied by the Chief of the Hellenic National Defense General Staff (HNDGS), General Dimitrios Houfis, and the Chief of the Hellenic Navy General Staff (HNGS), Rear Admiral Dimitrios-Eleftherios Katara, paid a formal visit today, Sunday, March 30, 2025, to the Italian Navy frigate CARLO MARGOTTINI (F-592), which is docked at the Port of Piraeus as part of its mission. The Minister of National Defense and the Chiefs of the HNDGS and HNGS were welcomed aboard the frigate by the Chief of the Italian Navy, Admiral Enrico Credendino.*

However, the Hellenic Navy's leadership has acknowledged that these measures may not be sufficient to address strategic challenges in the Aegean and Eastern Mediterranean. As a result, there are calls for additional multi-role frigates to replace aging S-class units. This has led to the consideration of both new and used ships.

- Joining the U.S. Navy's FFG-62 program to construct Constellation-class frigates in Greece.
- Joining the European Patrol Corvette program

The potential acquisition of the Bergamini-class frigates from Italy is an important part of Greece's broader naval modernization strategy. It reflects Greece's desire to address gaps in its surface combatant fleet while maintaining strategic flexibility in a volatile region. However, the success of these modernization efforts hinges not just on military utility, but on Greece's willingness to assert its naval power in the Eastern Mediterranean, and its ability to navigate financial and political hurdles.





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## Naval Group proposes local construction of three additional Kimon class (FDI HN) frigates for the Hellenic Navy

While Greece has already begun negotiations with France's Naval Group to acquire a fourth Belharra-type or Kimon-class (FDI HN) frigate, Naval Group has recently proposed the local construction of three additional *Kimon*-class (FDI HN) frigates for the Hellenic Navy, complementing the four already planned for acquisition. The construction of the fourth frigate is set to conclude soon.

Naval Group's offer presents an opportunity for Greece to modernize its navy, enhance its defense capabilities, and boost its defense industry while strengthening its ties with France and contributing to European defense resilience.

Naval Group's proposal to expand Greece's naval fleet is a strategic move aimed at bolstering French-Greek defense ties while significantly enhancing Greece's domestic defense and shipbuilding capabilities.

Naval Group intends to transfer cutting-edge technology and expertise to Greek shipyards, including Skaramangas Shipyards and METKA, by providing training at their Excellence and Innovation Centers in Lorient and Toulon-Ollioules. This will facilitate the establishment of a robust domestic shipbuilding sector capable of constructing advanced frigates.

Skaramangas Shipyards, which has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Naval Group, will upgrade its infrastructure to handle the construction of these high-tech vessels. This aligns with Greece's long-term goal of boosting its defense industry and reducing reliance on foreign imports.

Acquiring a homogeneous fleet of FDI HN frigates will simplify logistics, maintenance, and training, improving operational efficiency and reducing costs.

The project will bring substantial benefits to the Greek defense sector, potentially creating thousands of jobs and stimulating local economic growth.

By building advanced naval vessels locally, Greece can take a significant step towards industrial independence in defense manufacturing. This would enhance national economy and provide greater flexibility in defense procurement.

The initiative positions Greece as a key partner for Naval Group in Europe, strengthening the European defense landscape and contributing to the ReArm Europe initiative. Greece could also become a critical player in future FDI frigate production for other countries.

This partnership would reinforce Europe's defense autonomy, ensuring that European nations are less reliant on non-European military suppliers, particularly in a time of increasing geopolitical tensions.

The FDI HN frigates are equipped with advanced capabilities, including top-tier anti-submarine warfare (ASW) systems and a formidable air defense suite, making them a strong asset for Greece's naval forces. Each frigate carries up to 32 ASTER 30 SAMs and 21 RAM SAMs, providing robust protection against a variety of threats.

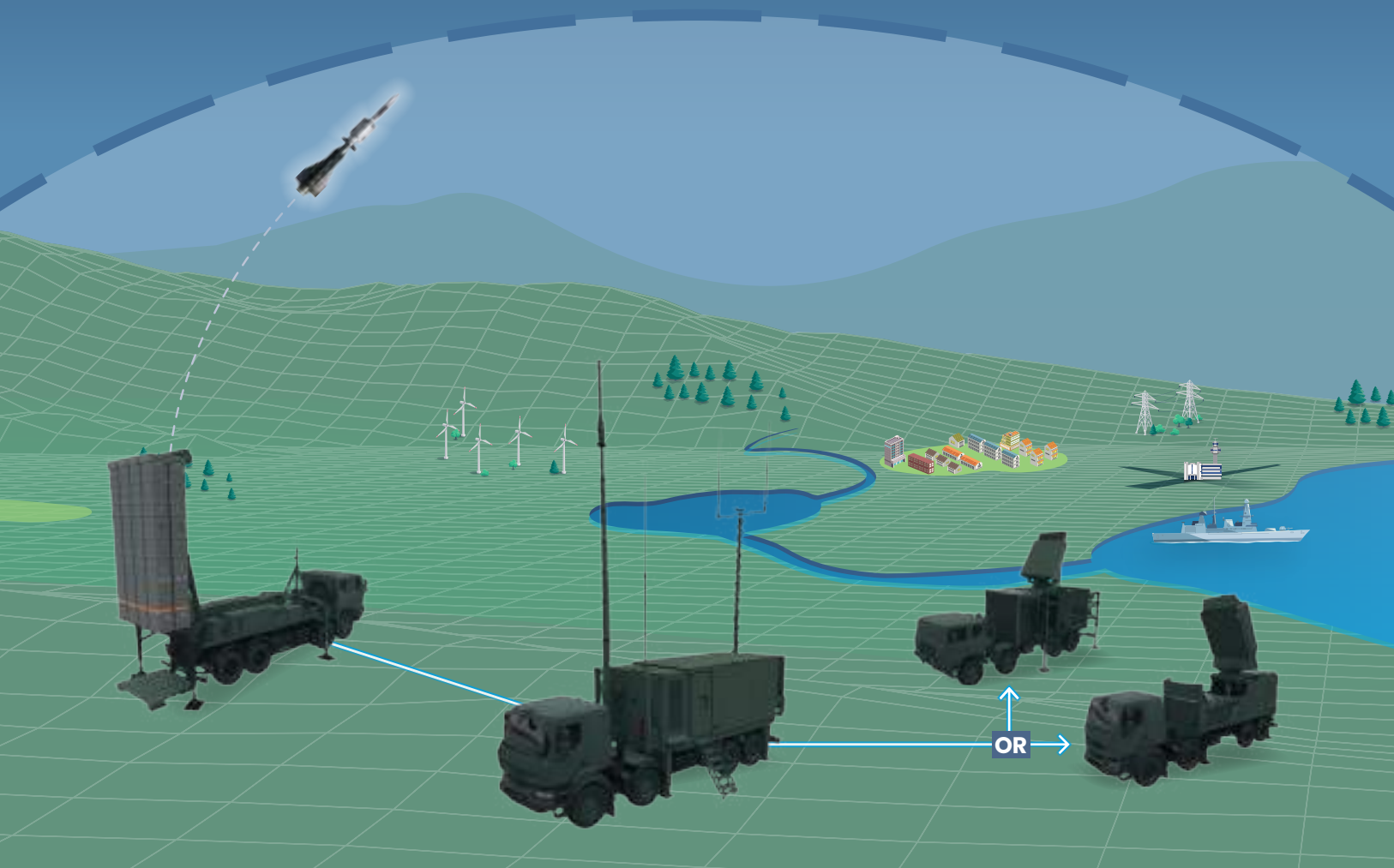


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## Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis' Statements upon the completion of the Meeting on Peace and Security for Ukraine in Paris

27 March 2025



- Georgia Skitzi (ERT): Mr. Prime Minister, I would like you to tell us what is the outcome of today's discussions on Ukraine, in terms of the framework of support, obviously, after the parallel talks that are taking place and are ongoing between the United States and Ukraine, the United States and Russia, and whether Greece will participate and in what way in this framework of support.

**Kyriakos Mitsotakis:** The common ground of today's discussions is that we need to reach a ceasefire as soon as possible. As we know, Ukraine has accepted in principle such a proposal for a 30-day ceasefire, but unfortunately Russia has still not accepted it.

Therefore, all pressure at the moment must be put on Russia to stop the military attacks on Ukraine, particularly on critical infrastructure, so that we can reach this initial

ceasefire and then have more time for Ukraine to negotiate a just and sustainable peace. Beyond that, the issue of security guarantees, which other countries may be able to provide to Ukraine, was also discussed. The common ground and position of the Greek government is that the strongest security guarantee for Ukraine is the strengthening of the Armed Forces of Ukraine itself. And I believe that all the countries that participated in today's meeting agreed in this direction.

Greece is not one of the countries that are ready to send troops to Ukraine as part of a "coalition of the willing", and I also think that this whole debate may be a little bit divisive and not allow us to focus on the main thing, which is none other than how we can get the war to end sooner. And that can only be done through an initial ceasefire.

- Georgia Skitzi (ERT): And if I may, because defence is in the spotlight, both at the European level and at the national level, can you give us a hint regarding the upcoming announcements that you are going to make next week in Parliament on this very issue, on defence?

**Kyriakos Mitsotakis:** We will have the opportunity, next week in Parliament, to present more details on the country's new armaments program, but also to place this debate in the context of the major geopolitical changes that are currently taking place on our planet.

However, we will also have the opportunity in the next few days to present an important initiative, and that is the new pay scale and the new grading system for the Armed Forces. The relevant announcements will be made in the next few days by the Minister responsible.

What I can say is that, in agreement with the Ministry of Finance, we will be able to give our servicemen and women significant new increases, increases which are largely financed by the savings made by the Ministry of Defence itself, within the framework of the new structure of the forces. It is not enough just to buy the most modern weapons and give our Armed Forces access to the most modern technological equipment, we need to make sure that the members of the Armed Forces are properly remunerated, so that we can attract young people to the Armed Forces. And obviously, a total overhaul of the pay scale and the grading system are moving exactly in that direction.

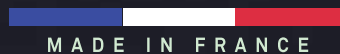


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## Hellenic Ministry of National Defence Awards Contract to ATESE for 90 TRG M10 Sniper Rifles

The Hellenic Ministry of National Defence has awarded the Greek defense contractor ATESE a significant contract valued at €4,528,370.93 for the procurement of 90 TRG M10 sniper rifles. These rifles will be used by the Hellenic Army Special Forces to enhance their operational capabilities and precision during missions.

The TRG M10 sniper rifle is a highly advanced and versatile weapon system developed by Sako (a Finnish firearms manufacturer). It is part of the TRG series, which is known for its precision and modular design. Below are some of the key features of the TRG M10:

### Modular Design

**Multi-Caliber System:** The TRG M10 features a modular design that allows for quick caliber changes. This gives the rifle the flexibility to switch between various calibers like .308 Winchester, .338 Lapua Magnum, and .300 Norma Magnum, depending on the mission requirements.

The barrel and bolt assembly can be easily swapped, making it suitable for different ranges and target types.

### Enhanced Accuracy

**Cold Hammer-Forged Barrel:** The barrel is cold hammer-forged, providing exceptional accuracy and durability over prolonged use.

**Free-Floating Barrel:** The barrel is free-floating to prevent contact with the stock, which ensures the highest level of precision and reduces the chances of accuracy loss due to barrel movement.

**Match-Grade Components:** The rifle uses match-grade components, including an advanced trigger mechanism, which contributes to a smooth, consistent shot.

### Advanced Bolt-Action System

The TRG M10 features an extremely smooth bolt-action system that contributes to its rapid and efficient operation while maintaining high precision.

The multi-lug bolt design helps to increase strength and reliability, ensuring smooth cycling even under harsh conditions.

### Ergonomic and Adjustable Stock

The rifle comes with an adjustable stock that can be customized for individual shooters. Adjustments include the length of pull, cheek piece height, and buttplate position, allowing for a highly comfortable and stable shooting position.

The stock is designed for ambidextrous use, making it suitable for both left- and right-handed shooters.

### Improved Trigger System

The trigger mechanism is designed to offer a crisp, light pull with minimal travel. This helps to improve accuracy by reducing the possibility of jerking the rifle when pulling the trigger.

The trigger pull is adjustable, allowing the shooter to fine-tune it to their preferences.

### Durability and Reliability

The TRG M10 is designed to perform in extreme conditions, from freezing cold to desert heat. The rifle's materials and construction are intended to be highly resistant to corrosion, wear, and dirt.

It is engineered to maintain consistent performance, even after extended use or exposure to harsh environments.

### Picatinny Rail Interface

The rifle is equipped with a Picatinny rail for mounting optics, bipods, and other accessories, allowing the user to personalize their setup to suit the mission requirements.

### Quick-Change Barrel System

The TRG M10 features a quick-change barrel system that allows the user to easily swap barrels in the field, providing versatility and adaptability for different missions.

### Suppressor Compatibility

The rifle is compatible with suppressors, which can be attached directly to the muzzle, helping to reduce sound signature and muzzle flash, ideal for covert operations.

### Precision Machining

Every TRG M10 rifle undergoes extensive quality control processes, with each rifle being hand-fitted and meticulously checked for tolerance and function.

© Sako

### Superior Recoil Management

The rifle's recoil system and stock design help reduce felt recoil, allowing for faster follow-up shots and improved shooter comfort.

### Compact and Lightweight

Despite its high-powered performance, the TRG M10 is relatively lightweight for a sniper rifle of its caliber, which helps improve mobility for the user without compromising on performance.

The TRG M10 is widely used by military and law enforcement units around the world due to its versatility, precision, and adaptability in various combat situations.



A black NH90 military utility helicopter is shown from a front-on perspective, flying over a hilly, green landscape. The helicopter's main rotor blades are blurred, indicating motion. Two crew members in orange flight suits are visible through the cockpit windows. A blue and white target symbol is visible on the front of the fuselage.

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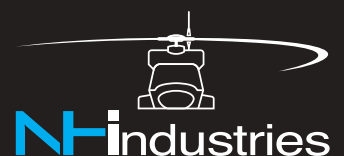
## NH90 TTH

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- **Dominating Any Environment:** Designed and manufactured in Europe, this helicopter excels in even the most challenging terrains and battlefields.
- **NATO-Proven Reliability:** Trusted by 10 NATO nations, the NH90 TTH delivers consistent performance and reliability when it matters most.



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## RAFAEL Systems Global Sustainment and DEVCOM Sign CRADA Agreement for SPIKE Missiles Development

In a significant step towards advancing defense technologies, Rafael Advanced Defense Systems Ltd through its U.S based subsidiary Rafael Systems Global Sustainment (RSGS) and the U.S. Army Combat Capabilities Development Command (DEVCOM) Aviation and Missile Center (AVMC) have signed a Cooperative Research and Development Agreement (CRADA) to collaborate on the evaluation, future enhancements and Americanization of the SPIKE family of missiles. This partnership aims to leverage the expertise and resources of both organizations to adequately evaluate the cutting-edge precision tactical missile systems for better alignment with the U.S Army's evolving needs for modern warfare.

The agreement establishes a cooperative relationship between Rafael and the Army 's DEVCOM allowing for the exchange of technical expertise, access to facilities, and sharing of intellectual property. This collaboration is expected to accelerate the development of advanced missile technologies, enhance the capabilities of the SPIKE missile system, and ensure its compatibility with the Army's requirements.

Under the terms of the agreement, Rafael and AVMC will focus on the tactical variants of the SPIKE Family including SPIKE LR2 (5.5 km) Long Range Beyond Line of Sight Precision guided missile, SPIKE SR (2km) Short Range shoulder launched Fire & Forget effector, SPIKE ER2 (10km) Extended Range precision guided missile and the close combat SPIKE Firefly battle hardened loitering

munition used for urban and counter defilade engagements. The signing of this CRADA agreement marks a significant milestone in the ongoing efforts to strengthen the defense capabilities of both the United States and its allies. By combining the innovative technologies and expertise of Rafael with the extensive research and development capabilities of DEVCOM's AVMC, this partnership is poised to deliver state-of-the-art missile systems that will enhance the effectiveness and survivability of the U.S. Army. The SPIKE missile system, known for its versatility and precision, has already been widely adopted by numerous countries around the world including 20 NATO members. This collaboration with DEVCOM is expected to further enhance the U.S Army's familiarization with these capabilities and ensure its continued lethality in the face of emerging threats.

LTG (Ret) Joe Anderson, CEO of RSGS said: "As the defense landscape continues to evolve, partnerships like this CRADA agreement between Rafael and DEVCOM play a crucial role in driving innovation and ensuring the readiness of the U.S Army. The SPIKE Missiles were selected by 43 different nations and are the basis of lethality for IBCTs and ABCTs all around the world. We see great potential with sharing information with DEVCOM to be better prepared for the Army's requirements such as MOSA, U.S. Qualification and others with the ultimate goal of dramatically enhancing the Army's tactical forces lethality by allowing the formation to attack beyond line of sight with a ready now, combat proven affordable capability" in order to maintain a strategic advantage and safeguard national security".

About Rafael Systems Global Sustainment: Rafael Systems Global Sustainment, LLC (RSGS) is an all-American subsidiary and authorized broker for Rafael Advanced Defense Systems, Ltd. serving North America, operating with offices in Bethesda, Maryland. RSGS provides an exclusive direct connection to U.S. Federal, state, and local government agencies to RAFAEL's proven products and services. The RSGS vision is to be the leading provider of products and services to the Defense and Interagency communities. RSGS' mission is to deliver tested and proven technical solutions along with sustainment and technical support that closes capability gaps for US Warfighters.



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## Prime Minister: The New Defense Programs are Investments in Sovereignty

Greek Prime Minister's speech in the Hellenic Parliament on 2 April 2025

"The price of freedom is eternal vigilance," said Thomas Jefferson two centuries ago. A price that our homeland pays consistently, recognizing that there can be no progress without security," said the Prime Minister, beginning his remarks by discussing the long-term planning of defense strategies, "the most drastic transformation of the Armed Forces in modern history."

"When we talk about resources for national defense, we don't just mean investments in equipment. We are also talking about the steady investment of our homeland to remain stable and independent in a changing world. We are referring to a policy that is connected and interacts with the full range of our collective movements. Thanks to the strong Armed Forces, our country has prevented dangers such as migrant flows in Evros. It has defended its rights in every crisis in the Aegean and has strategic agreements with the USA and France—alliances that provide security guarantees in an insecure field," continued Mr. Mitsotakis.

As he emphasized, "Security also emerges as a pillar of prosperity. Without security, there are no conditions for economic prosperity and social cohesion. If there is no protection from external threats, there can be no sustainable development and innovation. Who would invest in a country that doesn't guard its borders? The old dilemma 'guns or butter,' which is mainly posed by the left, is shallow and dangerous, especially today when the global map of interests is being restructured quickly, with wars, tariffs—which could threaten global economic relations—and technology becoming a weapon of intervention to disrupt internal social balance."

In this context, he described the military choices of the homeland as "critical," as "we have to face broader shifts

in power—military, economic, technological. Even more so when, on the other hand, the defensive perception of the USA seems to be diverging from NATO."

"Thus, from the Arctic to the Pacific, the balances are changing, generating new challenges. That's why investments in the Armed Forces are investments in our sovereignty, which concerns national dignity. At the same time, they are initiatives that strengthen diplomacy," explained Kyriakos Mitsotakis.

### The Defense Autonomy of the EU

"Based on the above, it becomes clear that the EU as a whole must redefine its position on the map of new changes. Greece and I personally spoke about the issue of defense autonomy. At first, we were few, but European partners, realizing the total changes, decided to take significant steps in the right direction. The latest decisions on defense are fully coordinated with Greece's positions. We have managed, with systematic work, to achieve decisions that are in the national interest. The most important is the escape clause, which gives the Greek government additional fiscal space for investments in the Armed Forces without adding to fiscal ceilings. Regardless of the fiscal capabilities the Greek government has as a result of the escape clause, this flexibility will not lead to excesses. Not only because the markets judge and monitor us, but because the performance of the economy overall is a factor of stability and security."

As he explained, "In the same direction, the fund for increasing investments in the defense industry is moving. The Fund provides loans on preferential terms and does not involve subsidies. It is not a Fund with characteristics similar to the Recovery Fund. At some point, the EU will have to discuss the creation of a Fund to finance public benefit projects, such as the creation of a European missile shield that would cover all countries. We are not there yet, but we have taken a significant step. The Rearm EU plan was voted on by MEPs from New Democracy and PASOK, while SYRIZA, KKE, and Plevsi Eleftherias voted against, and the ultra-patriots of Greek Solution, Niki, and Fones Logikis preferred to abstain. Let the citizens draw



conclusions about who are patriots in practice and who are in words.”

In response to the observation that “in 2019, we inherited the Armed Forces in a critically problematic state due to disinvestment,” he noted that “we had to move at a fast pace, and we did. Today, the image of the Armed Forces is completely different from what we inherited. 24 new Rafales with the most modern equipment. 3 new Belharra, which will be the most advanced ships in the Eastern Mediterranean. Unmanned aerial vehicles, cutting-edge helicopters, new torpedoes, and a comprehensive effort that has particular significance to invest in existing weapon systems by correcting past mistakes.”

As he said, “We have C130s and C27s, and the program for the upgrade of the F16s to Viper, which had been signed by the previous government, was stagnating but is now progressing at a satisfactory pace and will be completed within the agreed timelines. We have an agreement with Israel for the training of our pilots, with the training center in Kalamata not only covering the needs of the Greek Air Force but also capable of training pilots from other countries.”

#### **Announcements on Increases in the Security Forces at the Thessaloniki International Fair**

The Prime Minister also made a special reference to the care and consideration for the personnel of the Armed Forces: “For the first time in 14 years, they saw increases in their salary and allowances. The Minister of National Defense presented not a new salary scale, but a different philosophy to separate the grading from the salary scale and to make the compensation dependent on services to the homeland, while also making the salary scale an invitation for young people to envision a career in the Armed Forces. This is why the related announcements were made now and not at the TIF, to meet the deadline for completing the university applications.” He reminded that “the increases will take place in two phases: from April 1, €30, from July 1, €100 for all uniformed personnel, and the agreed increases from 2026 for Armed Forces personnel, which have already been announced.” He also mentioned the discussion about increases for other security forces.

“Those who expressed justified concerns about the other security forces beyond the increases that have already been announced, I want to say that our government has proven its enduring support for society as a whole, not just for uniformed personnel—something that will be confirmed by the announcements at the upcoming TIF. However, one thing is certain: we will remain responsible, and the government will not succumb to a destructive spiral of giveaways. Fiscal responsibility will not be questioned. We will do it at the right time and with the responsibility that always characterizes us.”

#### **The Philosophy of the New Defense Program**

Developing further on the philosophy of the new defense program, the Prime Minister emphasized that “in the past, we often put the cart before the horse. We would come to Parliament with the desires of the Armed Forces, approve defense programs, and when we totaled them, we realized that they couldn’t be implemented, and the result

was that we had a typical design that exceeded fiscal capabilities. Now, the minister knows that for the program period, he has €25 billion within which to fit the critical and necessary choices, taking into account the proposals from the staff.” The first parameter, as he said, is that “expensive equipment should be accompanied by smart weapons systems. Therefore, technological superiority is an important component of the proposals we are discussing.”

“The second parameter concerns domestic added value. Today, there are Greek industries and companies capable of playing this role, as long as we can give them this role. I am not referring only to state-owned companies but also to others that innovate and foresee the overall European gap in the defense industry. If we want to buy new Patriot systems, it will take 4-5 years because there are no production capabilities. However, if these systems are also produced in Greece, other possibilities open up for us,” continued the Prime Minister.

“We are talking about a completely different philosophy for the development of the Greek defense industry. At the same time, I would like to congratulate the Ministry of National Defense for the significant steps being made through the development and innovation center for the development of start-up ecosystems. The anti-drone system of our frigates is one such example that shows what we can achieve,” added Mr. Mitsotakis.

“The third axis that drives the program concerns the ongoing support of the systems we have already acquired. We know that the systems we purchase are expensive, and if we do not maintain them, we will face unpleasant fiscal surprises or the systems will be put into inactivity,” he continued, reiterating “my support for the difficult decision of the Ministry’s leadership to reorganize the Armed Forces. I understand that it may cause disruption in local communities, but it is a necessary move that I fully support.”

As he pointed out, “It would have been impossible to secure resources for the Ministry of National Defense to carry out this plan if our economy were not growing as it is and if we had not achieved fiscal balance. Defense now means much more than guarding borders. It includes hybrid threats, whether with migrant flows or the flow of misinformation. To monitor these complex hybrid threats, the General Secretariat for National Security will be upgraded and will be under my personal supervision.”

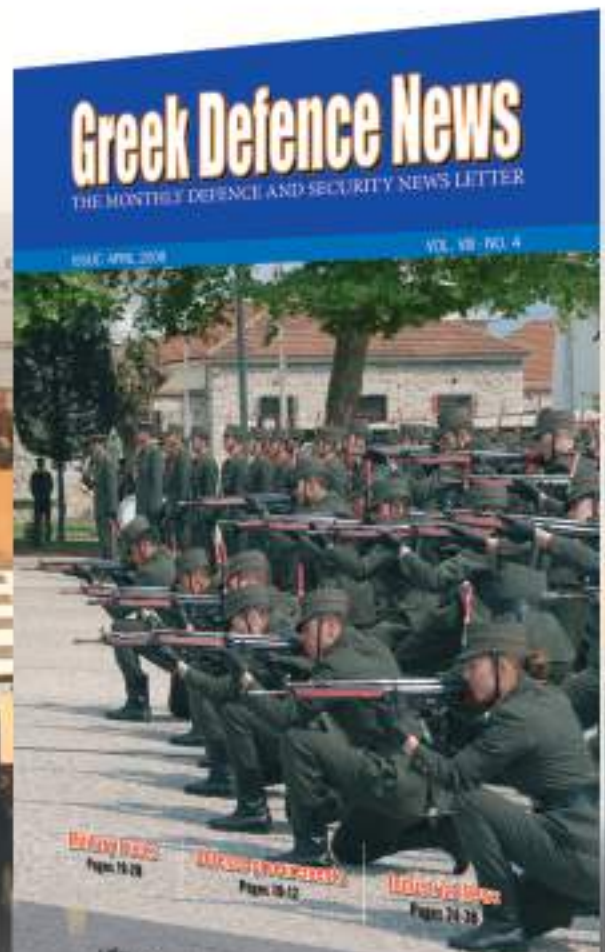
“We are a NATO member country and honor our agreements. We have a strategic agreement with the USA and honor those agreements, but we are also a member state of the EU and will try to strengthen European defense. Our ability to spend more on defense makes us key players in the design of the new architecture of Europe. This strategy must be based on a minimum level of national consensus. I have not seen substantial proposals from the opposition. I look forward to the discussion to reach compromises that will be nationally beneficial. We are putting forward our own proposals for the key pillars of the new national policy that places the country on our patriotic path of responsibility, confidence, and determination. When Thucydides said that ‘the times are unpredictable,’ he was referring to war, but this also applies to peace. We must bear the cost of keeping Greece stable.





**DBDC**

# International Defence Publications & Events



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## The Future of Air Defence: ELTA's Cutting-Edge Multi-Sensor Radar Solutions

In an era of rapidly evolving threats, where drones, cruise missiles, and ballistic salvos redefine the battlefield, ELTA Systems, a division of Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI), stands at the forefront with its revolutionary radar technology. At the heart of this technological leap lies the ELM-2084 Multi-Mission Radar (MMR) and its latest evolution, the Multi-Sensor MMR (MS-MMR).

### Transforming Modern Defence with Multi-Sensor Synergy

The MS-MMR represents a game-changing advance in radar technology. By combining multiple sensors into one cohesive system, it provides unparalleled precision and comprehensive coverage against a spectrum of threats. "We are witnessing increasingly complex scenarios," explains Eyal Shapira, General Manager of Air Defence and Naval Radar Systems at ELTA. "From low-signature drones flying mere meters above ground to long-range ballistic missiles, today's radars must detect, track, and classify targets with unmatched speed and accuracy."

This new system fuses data from various sources, including radar, electro-optical sensors, and Signal Intelligence (SIGINT), to deliver a unified and highly detailed situational picture. By seamlessly integrating with advanced weapon systems, the MS-MMR ensures precise and timely interception decisions, embodying the principle that as Mr. Shapira notes: "for multi-challenges, you need a multi-solution".

### A Proven Legacy of Excellence

IAI-ELTA's radar systems are no strangers to high-stakes performance. The MMR family has been a cornerstone of Israel's multi-layered air defence, powering systems such as the Iron Dome and David's Sling. The MMR's global footprint spans numerous customers, reinforcing its reputation as a trusted solution in real-world combat scenarios.

"Our radars are the eye and brain behind every interception," notes Shapira. "Whether it's the Green Pine in the Arrow system or the MF-STAR on naval platforms, these technologies provide the precision and reliability our customers depend on in critical moments."

The MS-MMR's introduction addresses the increasingly sophisticated challenges posed by adversaries. Modern threats like supersonic cruise missiles and swarm attacks by drones demand a new level of agility and intelligence in air defence



© IAI/ELTA

systems. The MS-MMR's real-time capabilities enable it to adapt to these evolving challenges. As Shapira puts it, "We are not just building radars; we are building solutions that think, evolve, and keep us a step ahead."

The system's ability to classify threats accurately and optimize resource allocation across a network of radars creates what Shapira describes as a "radar beehive." This interconnected network ensures seamless operation, even in the event of individual unit failure.

### Global Impact and Future Horizons

From military installations to civilian infrastructure, IAI's radar systems protect critical assets worldwide. With over 250 units sold to customers ranging from NATO allies to Asian navies, the MS-MMR is set to redefine air defence capabilities globally. As Shapira reflects on the challenges faced, he highlights the importance of adaptability: "The world's battlefields are changing daily, and so must our systems."

As threats grow more sophisticated and diverse, IAI's ELTA division continues to pioneer advancements in radar technology, providing nations with the tools to safeguard their skies. The MS-MMR is not just a technological achievement; it serves as the foundation for ensuring the readiness of nations to face any scenario. As demonstrated in Israel, where prolonged conflict involved thousands of attacks from multiple fronts, readiness proved to be the most critical factor in safeguarding the future of nations and their people. This system embodies the principle that resilience and adaptability are essential for maintaining security in an increasingly complex world.

**Come meet our Air Defence experts at DEFEA 2025 – Hall 2 Booth C2 or contact us at [market@elta.co.il](mailto:market@elta.co.il)**



## Plan for the Fleet 2025: The Chief of the Hellenic Navy, Vice Admiral Dimitrios-Eleftherios Kataras HN, Outlines the Future of the Navy

In a message titled "Plan for the Fleet 2025" posted on the Hellenic Navy's (HN) website, the Chief of the Hellenic Navy General Staff, Vice Admiral Dimitrios-Eleftherios Kataras HN, outlines the main directions for the present and future of the Navy. He addresses the personnel, the equipment, and emphasizes that the ultimate goal is to have a strong and modern Navy capable of projecting power and deterrence in regions of geopolitical interest to Greece, safeguarding its sovereign rights, and defending the nation's national interests.

The Full Message from the Chief of the Hellenic Navy General Staff:

On January 19, 2024, at the Freedom Square of the Hellenic Naval Academy, upon taking up my duties, I initiated the "Plan for the Fleet," announced "Set sail," and urged you to "follow the course of the first voyage."

### Where are we now?

In every long voyage, as sailors, we must chart an accurate course to maintain situational awareness and ensure that we are staying on track. This becomes even more crucial when sailing in "constrained waters" and/or "under adverse conditions."

The modern, unstable regional environment, characterized by fragile balances in the nearby geopolitical space, combined with the particularities of the "vessel" and the challenges faced by the "crew," results in the continuous change of voyage conditions. Accordingly, it is vital to frequently take command of the "Ship's Management Team."

This current "Plan for the Fleet" provides my directives to the Hellenic Navy personnel, the navigation guidelines, the targeted choices of the "waypoints," and the appropriate setting of the "engine speed," aiming for the correct course that will bring us safely, effectively, and in time to our final destination, the "Harbor of Arrival."

### Where do we want to go?

The final destination is the Harbor of Arrival: a strong and modern Hellenic Navy, capable of projecting reliable naval power and deterrence in regions of geopolitical interest to Greece, safeguarding its sovereign rights and defending the national interests of our country, aligned with the objectives of the National Defense Policy (NDP) and the National Military Strategy (NMS).

The "Plan for the Fleet" is based on my vision, as communicated on February 8, 2024, and serves the priorities that have been identified. Specifically, the plan is based on 9 waypoints, which belong to three main sections of the voyage.



## Section 1: Power & Impact

### Missions & Operations:

The broad range of modern security challenges, regional instability, and fragile geopolitical balances raise concerns and prevent complacency. Therefore, there is a strong necessity to highlight Greece's role as a pillar of stability, a provider rather than a consumer of security in the Eastern Mediterranean region.

A priority is to promote the Hellenic Navy as a factor of naval power and deterrence, enabling the enhancement of Greece's footprint in regions of national interest.

The Hellenic Navy must continue honoring its commitments and fulfilling its obligations to the UN, NATO, and the EU by actively participating in initiatives that promote peace and security, in coordination with friends and allies.

### Mission & Operations Rationalization:

The modernization of the Navy's Force Structure and the integration of innovative products, while considering both fiscal constraints and human resource shortages, demand a rationalization of the current missions of the Hellenic Navy.

We must balance resources appropriately between availability, readiness, capability development, operational commitments, and the projection of naval power. Specifically, it requires updating the organization and functioning, re-defining processes, revising operational planning, and promoting jointness as the key to success in modern operational theaters.

### Active Military Diplomacy:

The Hellenic Navy must take a key role in advancing security initiatives and promoting multilateral defense cooperation (e.g., MEDUSA, HERKULES, EUROMED). We aim to act as a "communication channel" between countries in the Eastern Mediterranean and the broader Gulf region, such as Cyprus, Egypt, Israel, UAE, Saudi Arabia, and India. The Navy will honor its commitments to the UN, NATO, and the EU, while also seeking every opportunity to strengthen bilateral cooperation with the U.S. and French Navies, fostering interoperability and contributing to the enhancement of Greece's strategic relations with these nations.

## Section 2: Transformation & Force Structure

### Modernization of Force Structure & Fleet Renewal:

The modern security environment, coupled with technological advancements, underscores the need for transformation and the necessity of modernizing the force structure. The goal is to renew the Hellenic Navy's units with an appropriate quantitative configuration that will ensure operational capability while focusing on the qualitative enhancement of the Fleet.

Simultaneously, maintaining the appropriate number of high-quality units will allow for both the conservation of financial resources and the more efficient use of human resources.

### Equipment Programs & Exploitation of Domestic Industry:

Updating and implementing targeted procurement programs that align with the Navy's new structure, such as the Belharra frigates program, Romeo helicopters, ISLAND and PROTECTOR-type patrol vessels, new submarine programs, and the upgrading of MEKO frigates, submarines, and torpedo boats.

These programs will contribute to the operational value of the Hellenic Navy while also rejuvenating the domestic defense industry. The Hellenic Navy cannot simply be a consumer of weapon systems; it is essential to link its needs with the development of the Greek defense industry (a key example: the KENTAUIROS anti-drone system by EAV).

### Innovation/Transformation:

The security challenges, in combination with technological developments, create a strong rationale for adopting innovative options and cutting-edge technologies. We must embrace principles of transformation and demonstrate innovation in implementing institutional changes, in harmony with the Ministry of National Defense's 2030 Agenda. In this regard, we support the Hellenic Defence Industry Research and Development Center (ELKAK) to promote innovative products for the Armed Forces, while fostering collaboration with the U.S. Navy's Naval Innovation Center (NIC) for exploring synergies in defense technology.

## Section 3: Personnel & Society

To continue leveraging the human factor as an invaluable force multiplier and the most important weapon system, we must train, support, and inspire our personnel. Ships and services are nothing more than "lifeless vessels" unless they are manned by our people. Furthermore, recognizing that the military profession is not particularly appealing to the younger generation today, we have a responsibility to reverse this trend and make it more attractive. We must "listen aggressively," empathize with their concerns about work-life balance, and attentively consider their reservations.

### Training & Career Pathways:

We will adapt training systems and human resource mechanisms to meet the evolving trends and desires for flexibility and mobility, implementing innovative reforms aimed at modernizing the training of both permanent personnel and sailors, as well as upgrading infrastructure and organizing Military Schools.

We will implement the CAREER PATH program, with multiple career flows and developmental paths that will allow us to utilize and meet the broad range of skills and expectations of the younger generation, while cultivating a spirit of ethics, justice, and meritocracy.

### Support & Benefits:

We firmly believe that our crews will perform and succeed when they are confident that their loved ones are safe, their quality of life is ensured, and their needs are addressed. Hence, following the establishment of the new Fleet bonus and the increase in the remuneration of Naval Academy students and military cadets, we consider it our duty to review conventional salary packages.

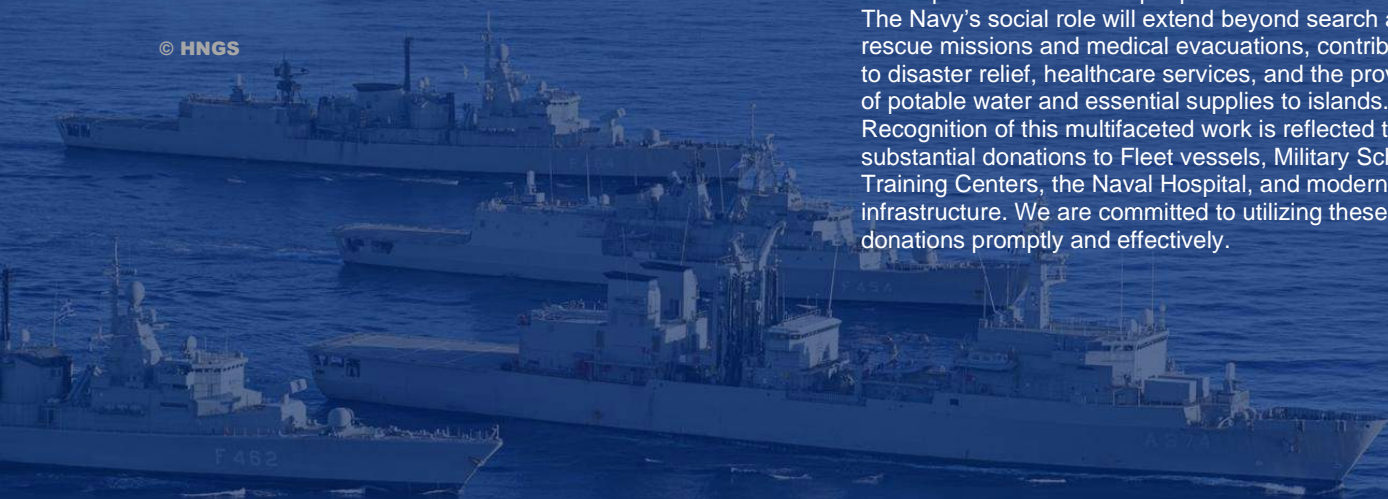
Our focus is on enhancing indirect benefits and expanding military personnel compensation into a broader array of privileges and support measures for military families, including improved healthcare benefits, increased housing programs, vacation opportunities, and access to additional goods and services.

### Social Work & Use of Donations:

The nature of modern challenges within the country has necessitated that the Armed Forces redefine their social role. The Hellenic Navy is proud of the relationship it has developed with the Greek people.

The Navy's social role will extend beyond search and rescue missions and medical evacuations, contributing to disaster relief, healthcare services, and the provision of potable water and essential supplies to islands. Recognition of this multifaceted work is reflected through substantial donations to Fleet vessels, Military Schools, Training Centers, the Naval Hospital, and modern Naval infrastructure. We are committed to utilizing these donations promptly and effectively.

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## Minister of National Defence Nikos Dendias Attends “Modern Fighter” Upgrade Program

The recent presentation of the “Modern Fighter” upgrade program, which took place on February 4, 2025, at the Hellenic Military Academy, marks an important step toward enhancing the capabilities of the Greek Armed Forces. The program’s primary goal is to equip soldiers with cutting-edge technology and upgraded gear to meet the demands of modern warfare, focusing on five key areas: survival, communication, awareness, agility, and firepower.

The Minister of National Defence, Nikos Dendias, highlighted the significance of modernizing the military, emphasizing that no modern armed force could function effectively without modern fighters. The program will provide soldiers with new equipment, such as advanced helmets, body armor, sensors, communication systems, and weapons, essentially transforming the Greek soldier into a “21st Century Greek fighter.”

The program, which is part of Greece’s Long Term Defence Armament Program, has a budget of 204 million euros, with an implementation timeline that will see the entire Hellenic Army outfitted by 2030. Dendias also pointed out that a significant portion of the equipment will be sourced from the domestic defense industry, thus supporting local economic development.

The first delivery of the upgraded equipment is scheduled for the summer of 2026, and the program’s focus will be on creating a self-sufficient defense ecosystem capable of meeting Greece’s defense needs well into the future.



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## MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

## ➔ Visit of Greek Minister of National Defence to IDEX &amp; NAVDEX 2025

On 17 February 2025, the Greek Minister of National Defence, Nikos Dendias, visited the United Arab Emirates (UAE). Accompanied by the Chief of the Hellenic Navy, Vice Admiral Dimitrios-Eleftherios Kataras, he attended the International Defense Exhibition "IDEX & NAVDEX 2025" in Abu Dhabi, where Greek defence industry participated with a national pavilion.

Minister Dendias inaugurated the Greek Pavilion and met with representatives of the Hellenic Aerospace Defense & Security Industry Association (HASDIG), as well as with representatives from defense companies and defense technology firms.

In his address, Minister Dendias said:

"It is a great pleasure for me to welcome you here today at the Greek Pavilion of IDEX 2025 in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, a country friendly to Greece. A country with which we share many things, including a Defense Agreement, which I had the honor of signing on behalf of the Government with my friend, Sheikh Abdullah [Abdullah Bin Zayed Al Nahyan], in 2020.

IDEX is one of the most significant global exhibitions. I believe it is a great success for us to be here and

showcase our presence. I would like to congratulate Enterprise Greece for its efforts, as well as the Hellenic Aerospace Defense & Security Industry Association. It is very encouraging, even as an observer, to walk through the exhibition halls and see Greek companies presenting the products of Greek innovation.

I would also like to mention that, as our country enters a new era, we are showcasing the capabilities of Greek minds to produce innovative products, leading the Greek defense ecosystem into a new phase. In a few days, we will have the opportunity in Athens to present the new armament program from the Ministry of National Defence, so that the Greek people can see the strategic planning based on their resources to ensure the highest security and national dignity.

Once again, I am proud to be here in Abu Dhabi, seeing what Greek companies, Greek minds, and Greek hands can achieve and demonstrate to foreign visitors. Warm congratulations."

Present at the inauguration were the Director-General of Defense Investments and Armaments, Brigadier General Ioannis Bouras, and the Ambassador of Greece in Abu Dhabi, Antonis Alexandridis.

Following this, Minister Dendias visited the Frigate "HYDRA" of the Hellenic Navy at the port in the area, which is participating in the European Operation ASPIDES (EUNAVFOR ASPIDES).

During his visit to the UAE, Minister Dendias also held a meeting in Abu Dhabi with the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the UAE, Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan.



## ➡ Defence Cooperation between Greece and Italy



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From January 21 to 24, 2025, a Greek Defence and Armaments Delegation (GDDIA), led by Major General Ioannis Bouras, General Director, visited Rome, Italy.

During the visit, the delegation engaged in a series of bilateral meetings and discussions to strengthen defense cooperation between Greece and Italy.

The visit featured a comprehensive set of meetings, including a NATO-level bilateral session, government-to-government (G-G) talks, and visits to key military installations and Italian defense industry companies, including Fincantieri, Leonardo, and Electronika.

The General Director of GDDIA also met with Ms. Eleni Sourani, the Greek Ambassador to Italy, to discuss ongoing and future defense collaboration.

### Agreements Reached:

1. **Enhancing Governmental Bilateral Meetings:** Both sides agreed to increase the frequency of governmental meetings to further boost cooperation in defense and armament sectors.
2. **Industry Collaboration:** To foster deeper mutual understanding between the defense industries of both nations, Greece and Italy will organize dedicated "Industry Days" to explore new areas of cooperation.
3. **EU Tools for Defense Cooperation:** The parties agreed to expand the use of European Union funding tools, such as the European Defence Fund (EDF) and the European Defence Industrial Development Programme (EDIS), to support joint defense projects and industry collaboration.
4. **Cooperation in Procurement Programs:** Both sides will collaborate on future defense procurement programs, including the provision of support services for military equipment.
5. **Participation in DEFEA 2025:** Italy will take part in the upcoming *DEFEA* (Defence Exhibition Athens) exhibition in May 2025, highlighting defense industry capabilities and potential partnerships.

6. **Visits to Italian Facilities:** Plans were made for future visits to Italian defense manufacturing, repair, and support facilities to deepen operational ties and exchange best practices.

This visit marks a significant step forward in enhancing the defense relationship between Italy and Greece, with a focus on mutual growth, industrial collaboration, and the strategic use of European defense initiatives.

## ➡ Defence Cooperation Between Greece and Cyprus



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On April 4th, 2025, a delegation from the Greek General Directorate for Defence Investments and Armaments (GDDIA), led by Major General Ioannis Bouras, General Director, visited Nicosia, Cyprus. The purpose of the visit was to strengthen bilateral cooperation in the field of defense and armaments.

The agenda included bilateral meetings aimed at deepening existing collaborations, exploring new opportunities for joint initiatives, and enhancing synergies between the Greek and Cypriot defense industries. During the visit, Major General Bouras met with key Cypriot defense officials, including the Minister of Defense, Mr. Vasilios Palmas, the Director of the Directorate of Armaments, Mr. Panayiotis Symeou, and the Director of the Directorate of General Procurement and Defence Capabilities, Dr. Panagiotis Hadjipavlis. Discussions focused on further aligning the strategic goals of both nations in the defense sector and reinforcing their shared commitment to regional security and technological development.



**HELLENIC ARMED FORCES  
ARMAMENT PROGRAMS****GENERAL****➡ HCDI issues calls for proposals for unmanned systems, and command, control and information systems**

The Hellenic Centre for Defence Innovation (HCDI) announced that, on Friday 28 February 2025, it published two calls for proposals, inviting entities to submit proposals related to unmanned systems and command, control and information systems.

Through these calls, HCDI fulfils its role as contracting authority for the implementation of Research and Development programmes related to Defence and Security. HCDI is planning to issue additional calls in the near future.

HCDI's first calls involve the following:

- a. The Development of dual-mode multi-configuration Unmanned Surface Vehicles (USV), capable of operating with autonomous or semi-autonomous navigation;
- b. The Development of a Battlefield Management System (BMS), initially applied to a gunboat-type vessel, capable of composing the tactical picture of the theatre of operations both at local level and as member of a network.

The Minister of National Defence, Nikos Dendias, stated with regard to HCDI's calls for proposals the following:

"The announcement of the first two calls for proposals by the Hellenic Centre for Defence Innovation is a milestone for our Country's defence capabilities. The domestic production of defence capabilities constitutes an existential need, rather than a choice of preference. In this respect, calls are an important first step to change not only our philosophy but our practices, through the development of the innovation ecosystem. The goal is for Greece to stop purchasing off the shelf and to drive a significant increase in the Greek defence ecosystem's contribution to the GDP from its current 0,7% state. Moreover, in conjunction with significant steps that are soon to follow, related to "Agenda 2030"

reforms, our goal is to shield our Armed Forces with state-of-the-art technological capabilities to fulfill their mission of safeguarding our national dominance and our sovereign rights".

"With just 9 months in operation, HCDI has made major moves towards activating the domestic defence innovation ecosystem", stated the HCDI's CEO Pantelis Tzortzakis. "With today's announcement, we are pleased to present the domestic ecosystem with a significant opportunity to support as a central and proud

contributor the great modernization project of the Armed Forces".

**HELLENIC ARMY****➡ "Unmanned Cargo Aircraft"**

The Hellenic Defence Innovation Center announced a Call for Expression of Interest No. 04/25 for participation in the competitive dialogue procedure aiming at the awarding of the Research and Development Project titled "Unmanned Cargo Aircraft", with a total budget of twenty-four million euros (€24,000,000.00), VAT exempt.

**HELLENIC NAVY****➡ Schiebel UAS**

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On 14 March 2025, the Greek Minister of National Defense, Nikos Dendias, visited Austria. As part of his visit, Minister Dendias toured the production facilities of the company "Schiebel," specializing in unmanned systems. During his visit, he was guided by the company's CEO and owner, Hans Georg Schiebel, through the factory's production areas. Additionally, Minister Dendias attended a presentation of the UAS (Unmanned Aerial Systems), which will be included in the equipment of the new FDI (Belharra) frigates of the Hellenic Navy.

**➡ "Development of Autonomous Systems - Unmanned Surface Marine Vessels"**

Invitation for Interested Entities to Participate in the Competitive Dialogue Process for the Submission of Proposals in the Research and Development Project titled "Development of Autonomous Systems - Unmanned Surface Marine Vessels", with the purpose of awarding a contract based on the most economically advantageous offer, according to the best quality-to-price ratio, with a total budget of twelve million euros (€12,000,000.00) excluding VAT. The process will begin

with the submission of participation applications from the interested parties, after a deadline of forty-two (42) days from the start date of submission as specified below.

- Place for Submission of Proposals: ELKAK S.A. (Facilities of the General Directorate of Defense Equipment and Investments within Fakino Military Camp) – 6 Panagioti Kanellopoulou Street, Athens, 11527, Greece, Tel: 210-7466505, 210-7466502.
- Date of Posting of the Invitation: 28-02-2025
- Start Date for Submission of Participation Applications: 04-03-2025
- Deadline for Submission of Participation Applications: 15-04-2025
- Date and Time of Opening of Participation Applications: 15-04-2025

## ➡ Battle Management System

Invitation for Interested Entities to Participate in the Competitive Dialogue Process for the Submission of Proposals in the Research and Development Project titled "Battle Management System", with the purpose of awarding a contract based on the most economically advantageous offer, according to the best quality-to-price ratio, with a total budget of one million four hundred thousand euros (€1,400,000.00) excluding VAT.

The process will begin with the submission of participation applications from the interested parties, after a deadline of forty-two (42) days from the start date of submission as specified below.

- Place for Submission of Proposals: ELKAK S.A. (Facilities of the General Directorate of Defense Equipment and Investments within Fakino Military Camp) – 6 Panagioti Kanellopoulou Street, Athens, 11527, Greece, Tel: 210-7466505, 210-7466502.
- Date of Posting of the Invitation: 28-02-2025
- Start Date for Submission of Participation Applications: 04-03-2025
- Deadline for Submission of Participation Applications: 15-04-2025 (10:30 AM)
- Date and Time of Opening of Participation Applications: 15-04-2025 (11:00 AM)

## 📦 HELLENIC AIR FORCE

### ➡ HAI reinforces the Hellenic Air Force fleet with the delivery of another C-130

On March 14, 2025, Hellenic Aerospace Industry (HAI) successfully delivered another C-130 transport aircraft after completing Programmed Depot Maintenance (PDM), which included extensive structural repairs.

The aircraft took off from HAI en route to 112 Combat Wing / 356 Tactical Transport Squadron on 8 April 2025

following the successful completion of ground and flight acceptance tests conducted over approximately two weeks by the Hellenic Air Force in collaboration with HAI. This delivery boosts the availability of C-130 aircraft for the Hellenic Air Force.

HAI President and CEO Mr. Alexandros Diakopoulos commented: "HAI continues to work intensively for the timely and high-quality delivery of its aircraft, despite the challenges it has had to face. The company makes continuous efforts to meet the needs of our Armed Forces, and in particular, those of the Hellenic Air Force."

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

### ➡ CUBIC



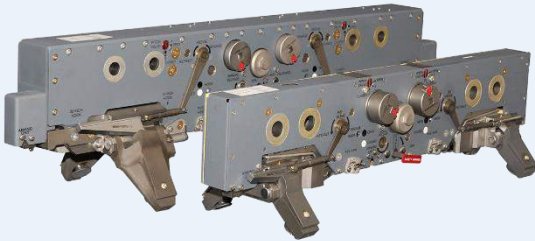
© DRS

On 24 March 2025, a meeting was held at the Hellenic Air Force General Staff with representatives from the US company CUBIC. The purpose of the meeting was for the company to present the capabilities of the P5 Combat Training System that manufactures F-16 and F-35 aircraft. Leonardo DRS, as principal subcontractor to teammate Cubic Global Defense, is the original equipment manufacturer and responsible for performance in all areas related to the P5 Combat Training System (CTS) airborne instrumentation subsystem. Including, real-time weapon simulation, a high-fidelity instrumentation data link, and onboard data recording to support post mission debriefing. The P5 CTS has set the standard for interoperable, joint, multiservice and coalition training with more than two million flight hours of service. Over 30 facilities and multiple air forces around the globe are now flying the P5 CTS, and a continuous block upgrade program ensures new technology is continually inserted into the P5 airborne and ground-based subsystems to keep combat capabilities on the cutting edge. Leonardo DRS Awarded Contract to Deliver more than 150 P5 Combat Training Systems for the F-35 Aircraft.



## ➔ L3 HARRIS

On 18 March 2025, a meeting was held at the Hellenic Air Force General Staff with representatives from the US company L3 HARRIS. The purpose of the meeting was for the company to present the capabilities of its BRU-47/A system and Viper Shield.



© L3 HARRIS

L3Harris BRU-46/A and BRU-47/A are a matched pair of 14-inch and 14/30-inch pyrotechnic bomb release units (BRUs) in use with the United States Air Force as well as various international users. With production over 9,000 units, these BRUs have demonstrated high reliability and only minimal maintenance requirements in both wartime and peacetime operating environments.

In partnership with Lockheed Martin and the U.S. Air Force, L3Harris is developing the new AN/ALQ-254(V)1 Viper Shield to provide U.S. allies with cutting-edge countermeasures against sophisticated, ever-changing threats. This advanced EW system will provide a virtual electronic shield around the aircraft, enabling warfighters to complete missions safely in increasingly complex battlespace scenarios. Its modern, all-digital architecture using commercial-off-the-shelf (COTS) technology enables enhanced system performance, a smaller form factor, reduced weight and easier future upgrades.

The article discusses two main issues that European leaders are conflating: the creation of a European defense structure independent of the United States, and providing aid and security guarantees to Ukraine. The focus is on the first issue—the need for Europe's defense autonomy.

Europe's desire for defense autonomy arose not from a wish to separate from the U.S., but from President Trump's intention to halt the U.S.'s nearly free defense protection via NATO. Given that Trumpism seems to be a lasting trend, establishing a European defense system has become essential.

The idea of a unified European defense structure is complicated due to the diverse security concerns of EU member states. For instance, Baltic countries and Poland view Russia as a threat, while Greece and Cyprus face risks from Turkey. Southern European countries, however, do not feel threatened by Russia. The EU, a union of nation-states, faces challenges in creating a unified defense, especially with issues like Turkey's involvement, which complicates the situation for Greece and Cyprus.

If European defense is to be truly comprehensive, it must include defense along the entire EU border. Otherwise, it would simply be an anti-Russian alliance, with countries like Greece and Cyprus excluded from

protection against threats within the union, such as from Turkey.

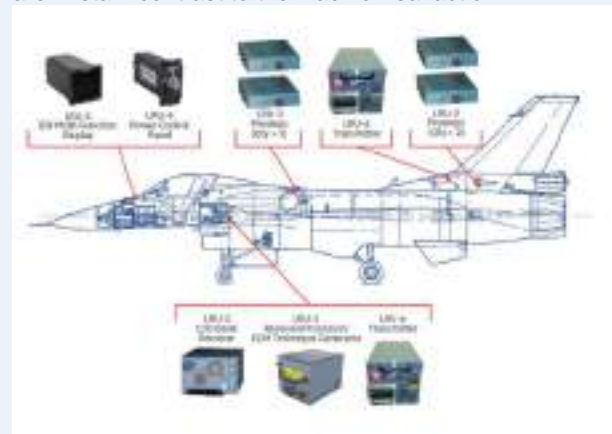
The ReArm program, an EU initiative, aims to increase defense spending but should not be confused with anti-Russian coalitions. Greece will benefit from it to strengthen its armed forces without having to join any anti-Russian alliance.

The failure to establish a European defense force in the past is not just due to NATO, but also due to the inability to create a unified military force. While defense industry collaboration will continue, a true European army remains an unrealistic goal. Instead, countries will have to invest in their national forces.

European societies, shaped by consumerism and hedonism over the past 70 years, have lost the will to fight for their countries. Despite this, the European elite is trying to convince the public to support higher defense spending. The "Russian threat" is being used to scare the public into accepting sacrifices for defense.

Turkey, though a NATO member, has been invited to participate in European defense due to its large military. Turkey aims to elevate its strategic role within the European defense structure.

Despite years of warnings about Russia's imperial ambitions, European leaders have done little to address the threat. The EU remains reliant on the U.S. military umbrella, with actions falling short of the rhetoric. Thus, the European elite's calls for defense and deterrence are in stark contrast to their lack of real action.



© L3 HARRIS

Viper Shield's software-defined technology components enable unprecedented digital radar threat warning and robust digital countermeasure capabilities in a fully integrated, internally mounted system. Its advanced digital radar warning receiver (DRWR) technology integrates seamlessly with the aircraft's new APG-83 active electronically scanned array (AESA) radar to deliver greater situational awareness. The digital radio frequency memory (DRFM)-based jamming system provides enhanced capability against advanced threats.

The open-system design accommodates seamless addition of combat-proven EW applications, providing state-of-the-art capability to address emerging and future threats. Enhanced system performance provides improved probability of intercepting against agile threats. A new pilot and vehicle interface provides the pilot with full situational awareness and easier interaction with the system. New sophisticated technology prevents any EW interference to and from a wingman.

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

### ROMANIA

#### ➔ Romania – GBU-39B Small Diameter Bombs

The State Department has decided approving a possible Foreign Military Sale to the Government of Romania of GBU-39B Small Diameter Bombs and related equipment for an estimated cost of \$84 million. The Defense Security Cooperation Agency delivered the required certification notifying Congress of this possible sale



© U.S. Air National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Jordan Martin

. The Government of Romania has requested to buy four hundred (400) Guided Bomb Unit (GBU)-39B Small Diameter Bombs (SDB-I), and two (2) GBU-39 (T-1)/B inert practice bombs with fuze. The following nonMDE items will also be included: GBU-39 tactical training rounds; Common Munitions Built-In-Test (BIT)/Reprogramming Equipment (CMBRE); ADU-890E Computer Test Set Adapter Groups; containers, weapons system support, and support and test equipment; training aids, devices, and spare parts; consumables and accessories, and repair and return support; publications and technical data; personnel training and training equipment; warranties; transportation support; site surveys; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, logistics, and technical support services; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total cost is \$84 million.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy goals and national security objectives of the United States by improving the security of a NATO Ally that is an important force for political and economic stability in Europe. This proposed sale will improve Romania's capability to meet current and future threats by

increasing its ability to deter and defend against all threats and to participate in NATO coalition air operations. Romania will have no difficulty absorbing these articles and services into its armed forces. The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region. The principal contractor will be The Boeing Company, located in St. Louis, MO. At this time, the U.S. Government is not aware of any offset agreement proposed in connection with this potential sale. Any offset agreement will be defined in negotiations between the purchaser and the contractor. Implementation of this proposed sale will not require the assignment of any additional U.S. Government or contractor representatives to Romania.

### BULGARIA

#### ➔ Lockheed Martin Delivers First F-16 Block 70 Jet to Bulgaria



© Lockheed Martin

On 3 February 2025, Lockheed Martin announced the delivery of the first F-16 Block 70 jet to Bulgaria, marking a major step forward in the country's efforts to modernize its air force. The delivery was celebrated in a ceremony last Friday morning in Greenville, South Carolina, attended by Bulgaria's Minister of Defence, Atanas Zapryanov, alongside American and Bulgarian leaders. F-16s are built by the Lockheed Martin team in Greenville. Bulgaria has ordered 16 total aircraft. "The F-16 will help the Bulgarian Air Force stay ahead of threats in the region and play a key role in the allied peacekeeping mission in Europe and around the world," said Mike Shoemaker, vice president and general manager – Integrated Fighter Group. "The F-16 has proven its air dominance time and again, and the Block 70 version will give the Bulgarian Air Force a highly capable, combat-proven aircraft." Lockheed Martin has a backlog of 117 F-16 Block 70/72 jets to be produced in Greenville, with 23 already delivered for international partners. The F-16 program supports more than 46,000 American jobs, making it a vital part of the country's industrial base.



## Heron UAS: A Reliable Maritime Patrol Solution

The Heron UAS stands out as a premier solution for maritime surveillance, delivering unmatched capabilities for monitoring vast oceanic and coastal areas. With growing global maritime security challenges, such as illegal activities, border control issues, and natural disasters, having a reliable and advanced tool like the Heron UAS can be a game-changer for national defense and border protection agencies. Here's an overview of the critical features and advantages of the Heron UAS:

### 1. Advanced Multi-Sensor Payload

The Heron UAS is equipped with an extensive range of sensors, making it versatile for a variety of maritime operational needs. This includes:

- **Radar Systems:** To detect and track vessels, especially in difficult weather conditions or low visibility.
- **SIGINT Sensors:** For signals intelligence, enhancing situational awareness and interception of potential threats.
- **EO/IR Cameras:** Electro-optical and infrared cameras to provide detailed imaging during both day and night, essential for real-time surveillance and threat identification.
- **Satellite Communications (SATCOM):** Enables continuous beyond-line-of-sight (BLOS) connectivity, ensuring seamless data transmission to command centers.

The integration of Automated Identification System (AIS) enhances the capability to track vessels, while the CRISP Real-Time Exploitation System provides actionable insights, mission planning, and secure data management.

### 2. Operational Flexibility and Performance

- The Heron UAS has a long endurance of over 24 hours, ensuring that large maritime areas can be covered without interruption. The high-altitude, long-range cruising capability boosts survivability, minimizing detection risk.
- The system also includes jamming capabilities, further enhancing security in contested areas where communication interference is a concern.
- Whether used for military operations or border security, the UAS ensures rapid deployment and high operational availability, even under adverse conditions, from harsh weather to complex operational environments.

### 3. Proven Track Record

The Heron UAS has been operational for over 20 years across various regions including South America, Asia, and Europe, gaining a reputation for reliability in maritime operations. It has been effectively used to:

- Deter illegal activities such as smuggling and unregulated fishing.
- Enhance border security by monitoring maritime boundaries.
- Respond quickly to maritime emergencies, such as search and rescue operations.



#### 4. Comprehensive Service Offering

Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) provides an all-encompassing service package, ensuring that the UAS operates smoothly and effectively. This includes:

- Experienced operational teams: Responsible for UAS operation, maintenance, and communication support.
- Operational Flexibility: A leasing model is available, particularly beneficial for organizations such as FRONTEX, the EU's border security agency, which uses the Heron UAS for surveillance over strategic locations like Crete and Malta.

The partnership with Airbus DS Airborne Solutions and ADAS exemplifies IAI's commitment to providing operational and financial flexibility, offering a leasing model that can support long-term operational goals while managing financial investment.

#### 5. Global Reach and Market Leadership

With its proven reliability and operational flexibility, the Heron UAS has positioned itself as a market leader in maritime surveillance. IAI's experience, combined with the Heron's robust performance, makes it an ideal tool for both military and civil maritime security operations. As maritime threats evolve, having access to such a system ensures a nation's sovereignty is safeguarded.

The Heron UAS is an essential asset for nations facing complex maritime security challenges. Its advanced sensor suite, operational flexibility, and comprehensive service offering make it a crucial component in maritime defense. Whether for border control, anti-smuggling operations, disaster response, or military reconnaissance, the Heron UAS proves itself as a reliable, efficient, and technologically advanced solution for maritime patrols. As global maritime security needs continue to grow, the Heron UAS ensures a future-proof response to evolving threats.

## The Future of Air Defense

#### ELTA's Cutting-Edge Multi-Sensor Radar Solutions

In an era of rapidly evolving threats, where drones, cruise missiles, and ballistic salvos redefine the battlefield, ELTA Systems, a division of Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI), stands at the forefront with its revolutionary radar technology. At the heart of this technological leap lies the ELM-2084 Multi-Mission Radar (MMR) and its latest evolution, the Multi-Sensor MMR (MS-MMR).

#### Transforming Modern Defense with Multi-Sensor Synergy

The MS-MMR represents a game-changing advance in radar technology. By combining multiple sensors into one cohesive system, it provides unparalleled precision and comprehensive coverage against a spectrum of threats. "We are witnessing increasingly complex scenarios," explains Eyal Shapira, General Manager of Air Defense and Naval Radar Systems at ELTA. "From low-signature drones flying mere meters above ground to long-range ballistic missiles, today's radars must detect, track, and classify targets with unmatched speed and accuracy." This new system fuses data from various sources, including radar, electro-optical sensors, and Signal Intelligence (SIGINT), to deliver a unified and highly detailed situational picture. By seamlessly integrating with advanced weapon systems, the MS-MMR ensures precise and timely interception decisions, embodying the principle that as Mr. Shapira notes: "for multi-challenges, you need a multi-solution".

#### A Proven Legacy of Excellence

IAI ELTA's radar systems are no strangers to high-stakes performance. The MMR family has been a cornerstone of Israel's multi-layered air defense, powering systems such as the Iron Dome, David's Sling. The MMR's global footprint spans numerous, reinforcing its reputation as a trusted solution in real-world combat scenarios.



© IAI- Multi Mission Radar ELM-2084 MMR enhancing situational awareness

"Our radars are the eye and brain behind every interception," notes Shapira. "Whether it's the Green Pine in the Arrow system or the MF-STAR on naval platforms, these technologies provide the precision and reliability our customers depend on in critical moments."

The MS-MMR's introduction addresses the increasingly sophisticated challenges posed by adversaries. Modern threats like supersonic cruise missiles and swarm attacks by drones demand a new level of agility and intelligence in air defense systems. MS-MMR's real-time capabilities enable it to adapt to these evolving challenges. As Shapira puts it, "We are not just building radars; we are building solutions that think, evolve, and keep us a step ahead." The system's ability to classify threats accurately and optimize resource allocation across a network of radars creates what Shapira describes as a "radar beehive." This interconnected network ensures seamless operation, even in the event of individual unit failure. From military installations to civilian infrastructure, IAI's radar systems protect critical assets worldwide. With customers ranging from NATO allies to Asian navies, the MS-MMR is set to redefine air defense capabilities globally. As Shapira reflects on the challenges faced, he highlights the importance of adaptability: "The world's battlefields are changing daily, and so must our systems."



## Rheinmetall Rheinmetall awarded framework contract for soldier systems

- Rheinmetall receives largest framework contract to date for the procurement of soldier-systems
- Framework contract worth €3.1bn to procure up to 368 platoon systems (including the regeneration of 68 platoon systems); term until the end of 2030
- Firm order for 92 platoon systems initiated (including regeneration of 68 platoon systems); value around €417m incl. VAT
- Prepared for connection to the D-LBO information and communication network

The Federal Office for Equipment, Information Technology and In-Service Support of the Bundeswehr (BAAINBw) has signed a framework contract with Rheinmetall Electronics GmbH for the follow-on procurement of soldier-systems 'Infantry Soldier of the Future – Enhanced System' (IdZ-ES). The framework contract, with a maximum gross volume of €3.1bn, will run until the end of 2030. Overall, the Bundeswehr can thus initiate the proportional regeneration as well as the manufacturing and delivery of up to 368 IdZ-ES platoon systems and various options for the procurement of additional components and services. A platoon is a military sub-unit.

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the procurement of additional components and services. A platoon is a military sub-unit.

The contract involves, firstly, upgrading the 68 IdZ-ES platoon systems currently in use within the Bundeswehr to a digital standard and, secondly, the firm order of a further 24 platoon systems including extensive peripherals. The firm order, worth around €417m gross, will be booked in the first quarter of 2025.

Signed on 6 February 2025, the contract is the largest ever for both Rheinmetall and the BAAINBw for the procurement of soldier-systems. These play an increasingly important role as a networked element of combat operations on the digital battlefield of the future.

A platoon system mainly comprises 34 individual soldier-systems and platoon equipment of peripheral components, consisting of advanced IT-equipment, optics, optronics, as well as military clothing, protection and carrying equipment. As the general contractor, Rheinmetall is responsible for the system and is coordinating the performance of more than 30 subcontractors.

With the framework contract, the Bundeswehr is procuring a modernised design of the IdZ-ES, based on the IdZ-ES VJTF 2023 soldier-system of the Mechanised Infantry system that is already in use. The new 'VJTF 2023 obsolescence-adjusted' design status eliminates all technically obsolete components and implements communication and data exchange capabilities with the Boxer armoured transport vehicle and Puma infantry fighting vehicle platforms, as well as preparing it for the airborne platform. The revised basic hardware of the soldier-systems is also designed to connect to the 'Digitisation of Land-Based Operations' (D-LBO) information and communication network.

© Rheinmetall



## Digitisation: Rheinmetall Ignites the Future of Autonomous Mobility for the Future Battlefield with New Centres of Excellence

- Rheinmetall is accelerating the rollout of the PATH Autonomous Kit
- The Business is launching three Land Autonomy Centres of Excellence – Germany, the Nordics and the UK
- This strategic investment reinforces leadership in digitalising modern warfare through autonomous systems

Rheinmetall is revolutionising battlefield autonomous mobility with a bold new investment in next-generation technology. As part of its mission to lead the digitalisation of modern warfare, the company is accelerating the rollout of the PATH Autonomous Kit – the innovative technology that dominated the 2024 European Land Robotics (ELROB) convoy competition.

This investment will supercharge the deployment of next-generation autonomous mobility systems, pushing the boundaries of what's possible on the battlefield. The

PATH Autonomous Kit delivers scalable, intelligent, and highly adaptable autonomy across a wide range of platforms - from uncrewed ground vehicles to logistics convoys, capable of navigating the toughest terrains and most demanding environments. With this initiative, Rheinmetall cements its position as the undisputed leader in land autonomy, addressing the growing demands of military forces worldwide.

To spearhead this innovation, Rheinmetall is launching three brand-new Advanced Land Autonomy Centres of Excellence in Germany, the Nordics and the United Kingdom, while also expanding its current Canadian Autonomy Centre of Excellence. These pioneering hubs will serve as the beating heart of Rheinmetall's autonomous revolution, providing advanced integration, testing, and national control over leading-edge autonomous solutions, with a sharp focus on the PATH Autonomous Kit.

"Autonomy isn't just the future of defence – it's the key to unlocking unprecedented speed, agility, and strategic advantage on the battlefield," said Thomas Berge Nielsen, CEO of Rheinmetall's Global Business. "By investing in the PATH Autonomous Kit and establishing our new Centres of Excellence, we're bringing world-leading autonomous capabilities to the fight - ensuring Rheinmetall remains at the cutting edge of military innovation."

The future of warfare is characterized by autonomy – and Rheinmetall is leading the charge.

© Rheinmetall





## **BAE SYSTEMS AMPHIBIOUS COMBAT VEHICLE MAKES INTERNATIONAL DEBUT AT IDEX 2025**

**The Amphibious Combat Vehicle (ACV) will be displayed for the first time in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) from February 17-21.**

BAE Systems' ACV is making its international debut in the UAE at IDEX 2025. This marks a significant milestone, as the program aims at international expansion. The versatile platform is designed to operate in the most rugged and challenging terrains, making it an ideal solution for militaries around the world. The vehicle will be on display in booth #03-C10.

BAE Systems has a long-standing partnership with the U.S. Marine Corps, leveraging its expertise to design and deliver the ACV to meet the unique requirements of modern expeditionary warfare. Born out of a combination of BAE Systems' amphibious legacy and Iveco Defence Vehicle's long history producing multi-purpose armored vehicles, this unique platform offers unparalleled flexibility and capability.

"The ACV is a game-changer in amphibious warfare, designed to have significant growth potential and the flexibility to meet mission roles of military forces around the world," said Rebecca McGrane, Vice President and General Manager of Amphibious Vehicles, BAE Systems.

"The 8x8 platform is a unique mix of true open-ocean amphibious capability and land mobility in the most challenging terrain, and we are confident we can enhance operational effectiveness for our allies."

With the ability to integrate future technologies and accommodate a wide array of direct and indirect fire weapon systems, the ACV family of vehicles has four variants:

- The ACV-P is exceptionally mobile and can transport 13 combat-loaded Marines, plus 3 crew.
- The ACV-C provides multiple workstations to maintain and manage situational awareness in the battle space.
- The ACV-30mm mounts a stabilized, medium caliber weapon system to provide the lethality and protection needed while leaving ample room for troop capacity and payload.
- The ACV-R provides field maintenance, recovery and repair capabilities to vehicles operating throughout the battle space.

The ACV enhances Humanitarian Assistance Disaster Relief (HADR) preparedness by providing deployable assets capable of navigating flood zones and other challenging environmental conditions to deliver supplies and personnel to affected areas.

BAE Systems is committed to working closely with international customers to understand their unique requirements and develop tailored solutions to meet mission needs. The ACV is currently in full-rate production in the United States.

© BAE Systems



## **FSAF-PAAMS: Increase and acceleration of Aster missiles production for France, Italy and the UK within the Next Generation of Surface-to-Air Anti-Missile Systems**



OCCAR-EA<sup>1</sup> Director Joachim Sucker, on behalf of France, Italy and the UK, and eurosam Managing Director Anne Diaz De Tuesta signed the 15<sup>th</sup> Amendment for the FSAF-PAAMS<sup>2</sup> Sustainment & Enhancement (S&E) Contract.

This new contract amendment covers the production of a new batch of Aster 30 B1 ground and naval missiles, and Aster 15 naval missiles. It focuses on the improvement of the European production capabilities for the Aster missiles in order to accelerate and increase the production for the Ground and Naval Air Defence systems employed by the three nations' forces (French Air Force, Italian Air Force and Army, French, Italian and UK Navies). Thanks to this contractual change, eurosam and MBDA will enable OCCAR-EA to deliver the variants of the Aster family (Aster 15 & Aster 30) to the nations, within a shorter timeframe.

OCCAR-EA and eurosam are proud to have placed this new contract amendment having worked closely with the national entities in charge of defence equipment procurement (Italian SGD<sup>3</sup>, French DGA<sup>4</sup> and UK DE&S<sup>5</sup>) This amendment is a further catalyst that promotes and reinforces the existing cooperation amongst the three nations supported by OCCAR-EA.

OCCAR-EA, eurosam, MBDA and Thales will therefore continue to lead the way to provide upgraded Air-Defence systems<sup>6</sup> to face increasingly more challenging threats for the benefit of the French and Italian Air Forces, Italian Army and the three Navies.

The eurosam GIE (Economic Interest Grouping) is a Franco-Italian joint-venture created between MBDA and Thales. For more than 35 years, it has been the industrial prime contractor and design authority for Aster missile-based air defence systems. The result of cooperation between France and Italy, extended to the United Kingdom, the systems developed by eurosam both in their land (SAMP/T) and naval (SAAM and PAAMS) applications have proven their effectiveness in combat

Today, eurosam is positioned as the only European system manufacturer capable of offering sovereign medium and long-range air defence solutions. To meet current defence challenges, eurosam continues to innovate to offer its customers defence systems able to defeat current and future threats. This ability to anticipate and to innovate is based on the recognised expertise of its teams and that of its shareholders in terms of research and development and programme management.



© eurosam- SAMP/T



© eurosam- Aster 15 naval missiles



## MBDA a model more relevant than ever

MBDA a model more relevant than ever

- European collaboration through MBDA has allowed nations access to decisive sovereign capabilities.
- MBDA has ramped-up production.
- In a rapidly changing world, MBDA is standing by its customer nations and armed forces to deliver on their needs.

MBDA CEO Eric Béranger reaffirmed the European group's role as a leading global provider of complex weapons. At his annual press conference on March 17 2025 from Paris, France, Eric Béranger explained MBDA's capacity to answer and exceed the production ramp-up necessary to face demand in the current geopolitical context. In a rapidly changing world, MBDA continues to demonstrate its commitment to cooperation and innovation at the service of nations' sovereignty, with expanded production capabilities and strategic partnerships. Altogether reinforcing European defense readiness.

MBDA remains the only European group offering a comprehensive portfolio of sovereign capabilities. These ensure that European nations have freedom of action and provide operational superiority. Recent deployments by armed forces have testified that MBDA's systems have again been combat proven in real-world operations. For example, ASTER by French, UK and Italian navies in the Red Sea or VL MICA for security at the Paris Olympics.

Eric Béranger, CEO of MBDA, said: "As geopolitical uncertainties grow, MBDA stands as a pillar of the defence of Europe, ensuring that nations have the tools, autonomy, and industrial strength to safeguard their interests."

By fostering cooperation, accelerating production, and pioneering new defense technologies, MBDA is not just responding to today's challenges but also contributing to the future of European security".

MBDA actively supports European Union defence initiatives, NATO collaboration, and cross-border cooperation. The company has reinforced partnerships across Europe to expand joint capabilities. These include new agreements with Poland and Sweden. There is an urgent need for increased defence capabilities and MBDA has taken decisive actions to ramp up production. In 2024, missile output increased by 33% compared to 2023, and by 2025, the group will have doubled production compared to 2023. Key initiatives driving this acceleration includes continuing to invest €2.4 billion over the next five years (2025-2029) and a significant recruitment drive, with 2,500 new hires in 2024 and a target of 2,600 more in 2025.

Beyond tackling today's production challenges, MBDA continues its efforts to adapt to potential mass challenges, while remaining focused on the future of defence, developing next-generation solutions. Some of its key areas of innovation include the future of Deep-strike - with FC/ASW, a flagship of cooperation, hypersonic and counter-hypersonic capabilities - with AQUILA, AI-driven and digital defence systems – with the recent launch of NEODE Systems, as well as mass-oriented solutions, including drone swarms, lasers, and remotely-controlled ammunitions, inspired by lessons learned from recent conflicts.

Figures at a glance:

- Total revenues in 2024 were €4.9 billion
- Order intake at a new record total of €13.8 billion
- Backlog reaching €37 billion
- Investment of €2.4 billion over the 2025-2029 period
- Expected hiring of 2,600 new people in 2025



## Diehl Defence and MDSI signs MOU

Diehl Defence, developer of the IRIS-T Missile, and MDSI, a leading innovator in payload integration, are proud to announce a strategic partnership. The collaboration unites Diehl's innovative missile engineering and MDSI's payload integration systems – PISAPS – to deliver next-generation affordable and rapid integration solutions for allied defence forces. At the core of this partnership is the integration of the IRIS-T missile through the PISAPS computer system. Aircraft that has so far been unable to utilize the full functionality of IRIS-T can be enabled the capability to do so with MDSI's Platform Independent Stand-Alone Payload System (PISAPS). Unlocking New Operational Capabilities.

This partnership enables rapid deployment of IRIS-T across a broader range of platforms, including legacy aircraft and unmanned systems, by streamlining integration through MDSI's modular and adaptable architecture. By combining Diehl Defence's combat-proven missile technology with MDSI's cutting-edge payload integration system, allied forces can accelerate capability upgrades without costly airframe modifications.

This development is particularly timely as allied nations seek faster, more flexible ways to enhance operational readiness and interoperability across joint forces. "This collaboration represents a major step in expanding the operational reach of the IRIS-T missile.

By partnering with MDSI, we're enabling air forces to leverage the full potential of our missile system across

platforms previously deemed as of limited compatibility – with unprecedented speed and cost-efficiency," said Martin Walzer, Senior Manager Integration Programs at Diehl Defence.

"We're proud to join forces with Diehl Defence to bring new levels of flexibility to allied defence integration. PISAPS was built to simplify complexity, and this partnership proves how rapidly we can unlock new capabilities – even on platforms once considered obsolete," said Christian Steinø, CEO of MDSI.

As a reliable partner of the German and international armed forces, Diehl Defence is a leading system house for air defence systems. In addition to systems for ground-based air defence, the product portfolio of the company headquartered in Überlingen (Germany) includes guided missiles for all branches of the armed forces, ammunition for army, air force and navy as well as protection systems. In addition, Diehl Defence develops and produces key components such as infrared modules, fuzes and special batteries. Diehl Defence currently employs around 4,500 people, generating annual sales of around 2.0 billion euros.

MDSI is an emerging leader in defence and security industry. Specializing in advanced system integration, MDSI develops mission-critical technologies such as state-of-the-art mission computers, low-cost additive-manufactured edge devices, and AI-driven big data analysis services.

**DIEHL**  
Defence

**GUIDED**





## Intracom Defense: Establishing Greece's National Industrial & Technological Hub for Strategic Defense Programs

As Greece embarks on a new era of defense modernization, the imperative for domestic industrial participation has never been stronger. At the forefront of this effort stands **Intracom Defense (IDE)**, the country's largest private defense firm, uniquely positioned to serve as a **national industrial hub** for the Hellenic Armed Forces' current and upcoming acquisition programs—including major initiatives such as *Achilleas Shield*, *HN future Corvette program*, *HA fighting vehicles* and others.

### Proven Capabilities in Defense Engineering and Manufacturing

IDE has built a robust foundation over decades, marked by its participation in large-scale international and domestic defense programs. The company's vertically integrated capabilities span advanced defense electronics engineering, systems integration, and full-cycle manufacturing - making it a trusted partner to global defense giants such as Raytheon, Diehl Defence, Boeing and Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI).

In the **air defense domain**, IDE has demonstrated deep expertise in the development and production of key subsystems including **missile launching platforms**, **missile electronics**, **hybrid power solutions**, and **battlefield information & communication systems**. These capabilities make IDE a natural industrial partner for Greece's strategic multi-layered air defense program *Achilleas Shield*, as well as other strategic programs of Hellenic Armed Forces.

### Key Role in the BARAK MX Integration for Achilleas Shield

A pivotal example of IDE's strategic alignment with national defense priorities is its involvement in the integration of the **BARAK MX Air Defense System** under the *Achilleas Shield* initiative.

Acting under the auspices of **Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI)**, the original equipment manufacturer (OEM) of BARAK MX, IDE has been trusted to lead the production of electronics and **integration of complex systems** such as launchers, etc. at its state-of-the-art industrial facilities in Athens, with the support of domestic industrial subcontractors located all over Greece.

As part of this role, IDE will assemble and test in full scale the launching stations of the BARAK MX system and incorporate two of its flagship indigenous products into the BARAK MX system:

- **Hybrid Energy & Climate Control System (HECCS)** – A proprietary power and thermal management unit already deployed in IAI's *Gabriel* missile launchers.
- **Tactical Communication Network** – An advanced tactical communication suite used across numerous international defense platforms.

### BARAK MX Program Communications Network: A Tactical Backbone

IDE shall equip the BARAK MX air defense system with a complete communications solution that encompasses its state of art wideband radio systems and tactical IP networking equipment to support voice, data, and command-and-control (C2) communications across the entire BARAK MX backbone network. Similar type of infrastructure is already fielded and operational within the Greek Armed Forces, particularly in Field Artillery and Air Defense formations, ensuring full compatibility and minimal integration risk.

IDE's communication network is designed to support the BARAK MX batteries creating an integrated high-speed

## COMMUNICATION & INFORMATION SYSTEM



TMN



CCU

## WIRELESS WIDE AREA NETWORK

*Spart@n-H*

## SDR RADIO

digital wireless communication environment that connects launcher units, command posts, and sensor arrays. By delivering secure, low-latency communications in real time, **IDE's system enables effective data flow, targeting coordination, and threat response** at the tactical and operational levels.

The key elements of the system are:

- **WiSPRevo: C4ISR Computational Node for Secure Network Centric Tactical Communications and Network Switching**  
WiSPRevo is a complete Communications and Information system suitable for land, naval and other military applications. The fundamental elements of WiSPRevo are the CCU user terminal and the multifunction TMN (Tactical Mission Network) unit that together combined form an overall system that fulfills certain communication schemes ranging from intercom applications to computational and networking applications for Vehicles, Tactical Operation Centers suitable for either ground mobile schemes or over naval environments.
- **Spartan SDR family: Broadband Secure IP Radio for network centric Tactical Communications**  
IDE's broadband, software-defined IP radio, is designed for secure, high-bandwidth tactical communications, supports real-time services such as VoIP, video transmission, messaging, and C2 data exchange. Operating in both ground and naval domains, Spartan-H ensures robust, encrypted connectivity across various echelons of command and within joint operations.

Both systems are engineered for military use, incorporating advanced encryption (COMSEC), robust

transmission security (TRANSEC with broadband frequency hopping), and compliance with strict NATO environmental standards. Their software-defined architecture allows for flexibility, interoperability, and cost-effective future upgrades - key attributes for long-term sustainability and technological resilience.

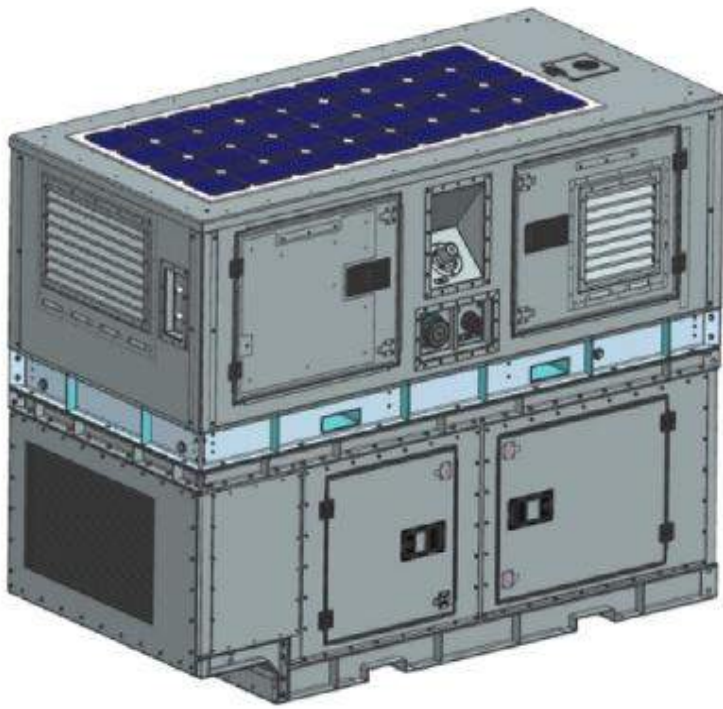
Through this integrated approach, IDE not only supports the operational deployment of BARAK MX but also strengthens its role as the national industrial base for tactical communication systems that enhance the strategic effectiveness of Greece's multi-layered air defense posture. By embedding Greek-developed, field-proven technologies into core components of the system, IDE reinforces national autonomy, bolsters security of supply, and ensures that the country's new air defense capability is supported by reliable, mission-critical communications infrastructure—designed, produced and maintained in Greece.

**Hybrid Energy & Climate Control System (HECCS)**

The Hybrid Energy & Climate Control System (HECCS) is a **next-generation Ground-Based Air-Defense (GBAD) hybrid power supply system**, developed by IDE, to provide a **common, efficient and resilient power solution for Launcher Units (LU) and Command Posts (CP)**.

The system has already been **selected** by Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) for **integration to the BARAK MX GBAD system**, and it has been designed to its specific needs, enhancing operational effectiveness and delivering a **unique tactical advantage to the End Users**, in comparison to systems that are based on conventional diesel generator solutions. The system is based on an **innovative modular architecture** - a "single-part number" concept is facilitated for different





©GBAD Hybrid Energy & Climate Control System (HECCS)

LU and CP configurations, delivering significant advantages in terms of interoperability, logistical support and personnel training.

The HECCS integrates within a mil-grade compact enclosure, a conventional diesel generator, an advanced Energy Storage System (ESS) and power electronics, under the supervision of an intelligent Energy Management System that **optimizes power generation and supply depending on the mission scenario.**

Key **tactical and operational advantages** delivered by the HECCS integration to a GBAD system are:

- **Mission Autonomy**  
More than **50% fuel consumption reduction** and a significantly **extended preventive maintenance interval by 6 times – up to 145 calendar days between maintenance actions.**
- **Enhanced Survivability**  
A unique capability for **controlled signature management** of the LU/CP elements for **extended periods of time** (more than 7 hours), enhancing the survivability of these assets, **while maintaining unrestricted mission effectiveness.**
- **Mission Readiness**  
The HECCS's hybrid nature provides immediate mission readiness, **continuous power supply to the GBAD LU/CP elements during tactical movement** and immediate power supply readiness, **in less than 30secs from switch-on**, even in adverse weather conditions.

- **Power System Reliability & In-service life**  
The inherent hybrid principle of the HECCS operation **eliminates idling/underloading and “wet stacking”** for the diesel generator element, with the system supporting **high-reliability rates and a trouble-free in-service life in excess of 20 years.**
- **Mission Continuity – Availability - Redundancy**  
The system provides **continuous power supply to the BARAK MX LU/CP, even during maintenance activities** to one of the system's power modules, essentially **minimizing LU and CP downtime to practically zero.** In addition, the HECCS supports **an embedded automated UPS functionality**, with no power supply interruption to critical GBAD mission systems.
- **Life-Cycle Cost**  
The HECCS **provides an unrivalled Life-Cycle Cost (LCC) compared to a conventional power generation solution.** Under specific missions' scenarios, it is estimated that the HECCS delivers **an overall LCC reduction of 60%** over an in-service period of twenty (20) years.

### Building a Sustainable Domestic Defense Ecosystem

Beyond integration, IDE's contribution to Greece's defense autonomy extends to **long-term support, maintenance, and lifecycle management.** Acting as the **depot-level maintenance center**, IDE will lead sustainment activities for all air defense system components produced domestically.

This includes system upgrades, performance optimizations, and lifecycle support, ensuring high operational availability for the end user, the Hellenic Armed Forces.

Moreover, IDE's participation leverages its **network of certified Greek suppliers and subcontractors**, fostering a broader **national defense industrial base.** By increasing the local content of high-tech defense systems, IDE ensures critical technologies are developed, maintained, and evolved **within Greek borders**, securing supply chains and building strategic independence and increased level of autonomy.

### Industrial Sovereignty Through Strategic Investment

IDE's role in supporting the Hellenic Armed Forces is more than just technical. It is strategic. By aligning with national defense goals and leveraging its longstanding expertise and partnerships, IDE is not only delivering **mission-ready, high-performance defense solutions** but is also reinforcing Greece's **industrial sovereignty and security of supply.**

As Greece continues to modernize its defense posture, Intracom Defense stands ready to lead the transformation, ensuring that advanced capabilities are developed, sustained, and evolved **by Greece, for Greece.**

# EODH

**The Protection Experts**



EODH is a Defense and Security Company based in Greece, providing Innovative Protective Technologies and Products including Upgrade Packages, Protected Mobility and a full range of Survivability Solutions for high-end Platforms like the Leopard 2A7/2A8 MBTs, Boxer 8X8 IFV and LYNX KF-41 AIFV.

With 25 years of successful track record, EODH has established a world-proven ability to deliver against the most complex defense and security challenges. Creative Engineering and Market Expertise ensures that we provide future focused solutions and capabilities to counter modern threats (ASPIs is a vivid example).

• Microstructures and Custom Made Geometries • Modular multilayered composites, Smart and Stealth Armor • Hybrid methods of Integration and Survivability Solutions (Active, Passive, Reactive) • Design, Simulations, Testing, Prototyping, Tailored Made Protection Solutions, Industrialization, Mass Production

EODH 's steady and significant growth is based on continuous investment in human skilled personnel, scientific research together with implementation of a 10 years investment plan respecting ESG Rules procuring new machines and production facilities doubling EODH's capacity hence categorized, rightly the company as one of the Diamonds of Greek Economy for two consecutive years 2023 / 2024.

## HOPLITE HIGH MOBILITY TACTICAL VEHICLE



# EODH DYNAMICS

EODH SA has founded the EODH DYNAMICS, a new 100% subsidiary Company, with a unique portfolio in the Land Defence Industry that covers a wide range of activities, from the Research and Development level, to the Prototype Manufacturing, and finally to the large-scale Industrial Production of all types of Combat and Support Equipment & Systems in the Land Defence Sector.

Building on EODH' long term successful track record and strength within the European Defence ECO System, EODH DYNAMICS will be capable to Design, Develop and Manufacture Land Vehicles and Systems, and provide FOS, Mid-Life Upgrade and Modernization of Land Defence systems of the Greek and Allied Armed Forces.

The new Company also through Synergies, existing Partnerships, Strategic Cooperation Agreements and Running Framework Contracts including by forging all the necessary Alliances with Key Players in the field of Land Defence Industry on Local, European and International Level, will play an important role "in the needed capacity" of the New European Defence Environment.

10.000m2 New Production facilities with state-of-the-art machinery and 200 highly skilled workforce coupled with Artificial Intelligence and Robotic Technologies will soon prove EODH DYNAMICS' vision into a successful future.

**HIGH TECH DEFENCE SOLUTIONS FOR TOMORROW**

## LEONIDAS 300



## LEOPARD 1HEL



## LEOPARD 2A8





## EODH AT DEFEA 2025

The Greek company EODH S.A., based in Lakkoma, Chalkidiki participates again in the International Exhibition of Defense Material DEFEA 2025, (HALL 3 – STAND D04) which presents the latest developments in the field of protection of Heavy MBTs, Armored Fighting Vehicles and upgrade packages for 2<sup>nd</sup> generation MBT and APCs. EODH SA has founded a New, 100%, Subsidiary Company, with an extremely expanded purpose that covers a wide range of activities, from the **Research and Development level**, to the prototype manufacturing, and finally **to the Large-scale Industrial Production of all types of Combat and Support Equipment and Systems in the Land sector**.

**EODH DYNAMICS** will be capable to design, develop and manufacture Land Vehicles and Systems, and provide FOS, Mid-Life upgrade and Modernization of Land systems of the Greek and Allied Armed Forces. It will also offer new and highly upgraded operational capacities by **exploiting the capabilities of Artificial Intelligence on both New Platforms and Upgraded Packages of existing ones**.

EODH presents in DEFEA the heavy version of the advanced protection system "**ASPIS Modular NG - MBT**" (ASPIS - Advanced Shielding Platform Integrated System), designed as a **complete hybrid solution** that **combines Passive and Active Protection** elements in the front arch to cope with modern threats such as tandem double warhead ATGMs and the new generation of long-rod APFSDS kinetic energy rounds. The design is such that it allows **responding to multiple hits**, while after attacking the armor modules **can be replaced in field conditions** by the crew. The solution of EODH can be applied as **an upgrade part of** existing MBTs or **integrated into new designs** and **meets the new challenge posed by attack Drones, Loitering Ammunitions, and the new ATGM missiles in the Fire & Forget parabolic trajectory that attack the MBT at the top of the turret**.

In addition, EODH in collaboration with the Belgian-Spanish DUMA and the OEM KNDS, has completed the design of a **comprehensive upgrade package of the Leopard 1A5 Battle Tank to the Leopard 1HEL level** and offers it for the modernization of the tanks of the Greek Army, which is the largest user of the type (500) **but also to other users worldwide. The fully budgeted and Technically completed proposal of EODH was recently presented to the Greek Army where it received a positive reception while other countries have already shown interest and there is an ongoing discussion between EODH and them with positive results**.

EODH in collaboration with the Belgian-Spanish DUMA and the Slovenian VALHALLA presented to the Greek Army a **complete package of upgrading of the M-113 APC to the M-113HEL level, based on new technologies and tested parts**. The package is offered for the modernization of the M-113 of the Greek Army, which is one of the largest users of the type worldwide, having about 2.900 units of various types and versions.

EODH's approach includes, a gradual (modular) **upgrade of the power pack**, the **protection** provided, the internal configuration of the **driver's position** and the transport area of the infantry team as well as the possibility of **adding various remotely controlled turrets with multiple armament options**. Serious consideration has been given to the age of the platform, the material of construction which naturally poses limitations, the need for full **support capability for the next 20 years, while a special effort was made to keep the overall cost at a low level commensurate with the value of the M-113 platform**.

For the modernization of the M-113 APC of the Hellenic Army, EODH presents the Remotely Controlled Weapon Station **MIDGARD 200** weighing 350kg equipped with a 20mmx139mm Rheinmetall RH-20 gun which can be sourced from existing stocks to significantly reduce the final cost. Optionally, the MIDGARD 200 RWS can also incorporate an A/T missile launch system (**EUROSPIKE or AKERON**).



EODH, also in collaboration with DUMA and VALLHALA, developed a **comprehensive upgrade package for the LEONIDAS I/II APC (4K7 FA G127)**, which on the one hand fixes the technical support and reliability problems and on the other hand **dramatically increases the operational characteristics**, making it comparable to modern designs. The main areas that are amenable to modernization are **Mobility, Firepower** and **Protection**, while additional interventions have been made in issues related to **ergonomics, comfort** and **safety** of the transported personnel.

In terms of firepower, the LEONIDAS I/II APC is equipped with a Remotely Controlled Weapon Station (**MIDGARD**) that incorporates an externally mounted 30x173mm caliber automatic cannon and converts into a hybrid AIFV.

The basic version of RWS has a combat weight of 950kg including ammunition, which in this case are 180 30x173mm rounds ready for firing. The turret has no basket, does not require any roof penetration and does not affect the vehicle's personnel carrying capacity at all. In the basic version it has a 7.62mm coaxial machine gun, while optionally it can accommodate a dual A/T missile launcher.

**Regarding Protection**, the solution chosen is the installation of **composite multi-layer armor** and the addition of an internal anti-fragmentation lining (**spall liner**), while optionally it is also possible to install anti-mine protection and new **seats suspended from the roof** to protect personnel from mine explosions. The upgrade of the provided **protection (armor) to level 5 in the front arc** and to **level 4 around the perimeter** enables the vehicle to withstand direct hits from 25mm x 137 APDS-T ammunition from a distance of 1,000 m.

The expected loss of mobility due to the increase in weight is compensated by replacing the 7FA engine with a **new Cat C7 type** and **increasing the power from 320hp to 360hp and increasing the torque from 1,100 Nm to 1,254 Nm** without however causing problems of increased stress or material failure in terms of the individual subsystems. The new engine works with a new 6-speed automatic transmission, a new reversing gearbox, a modified Steering/Differential change system, modified Air Exhaust & Intake and modified Hydraulic Systems. Finally, **the suspension is reinforced with new torsion bars**, and the driver's position and the entire **electrical circuit are upgraded (digitized)** and are now based on a data bus.

With nearly 25 years of track record, EODH has recourse to its own state-of-the-art manufacturing facilities, **consistently pursuing its dedicated Investment and Growth Plans**. As a result, EODH has become an important global partner in the development, design and manufacturing of all types of protection systems in the defense market, with activities in Greece, Europe and the Middle East and Asia. By providing innovative and tailored made solutions for today's specific needs EODH became one of the preferred partners of **KMW** in the **LEO 2A7/8, Boxer 8x8** and **PUMA** production as well in other modern AFV. Its key role results on the design, manufacturing and integration of their **New protection** as well.



© EODH Leonidas Valhalla ATK30



© EODH M113 200



© KMW LEOPARD 2A7

EODH DYNAMICS using EODH's Experience and positive acclaimed role in European Defence Ecosystem in it's field of activities announced the cooperation with **EOS Australia**, as Industrial Partner for Europe with the possibility of manufacturing all the products in Greece for the European Defence Market.

Within the above strategy EODH DYNAMICS is cooperating with the Greek Company **GEP** based in Thessaloniki in order to cover the highly demanded Capacity for multirole Drones and related Technologies which can be accommodated in the new company's production facilities within promising and positive footprint in European Defence Needs. It is also well known that EODH is the Industrial Partner of **RHEINMETALL** for the production of **LYNX** in Greece and other Systems and Projects to be announced in the near future.



## **KNDS France and METLEN Energy & Metals Partner for the Production of the VBCI PHILOCTETES® in Greece**

On 26 March 2025, METLEN Energy & Metals has entered into an exclusive partnership with KNDS France for the production of the French latest generation of 8x8 Infantry Fighting armoured Vehicle, VBCI PHILOCTETES® marking a significant milestone in European defence industrial cooperation.

This is the first time that the French leader in land defence has signed such an ambitious agreement for 8x8 armoured vehicles. This exclusive alliance will involve the transfer of know-how concerning aluminium armour and the local production of the VBCI Mk2 welded structure. This strategic industrial agreement is designed to meet the Hellenic Army's operational requirement for a large number of 8x8 infantry fighting vehicles as well as that of other European armies. By locating key manufacturing and maintenance operations within Greece, the partnership enhances equipment availability. This dynamic also reflects the beneficial trickle-down effect to the Greek industry and strengthens the Franco-Greek defence relationship.

PHILOCTETES® refers to the Trojan War hero and keeper of the arrows of Heracles, essential to the Achaeans to bring down the city. The VBCI PHILOCTETES® is an improved version of the 8x8 infantry fighting vehicle already in service with the French army. PHILOCTETES® integrates a 40mm remotely operated turret similar to that of the JAGUAR, and an MMP anti-tank missile pod. It covers a wide range of threats, from UAVs to aircraft, from light vehicles to main battle tanks. The VBCI can carry a full infantry combat group and is available in several variants: command post, ambulance, or recovery vehicle. The VBCI has been used by the French army for more than 10 years in external operations, and it is being continuously developed ever since.

METLEN has a proven track record in the defence sector, having been a trusted industrial partner for KNDS Deutschland for the last 23 years. Its Volos-based production facility is already responsible for shielding welding of the LEOPARD 2 MBT. With this latest collaboration, METLEN is further strengthening its footprint in the European defence initiatives.

The geopolitical landscape and the need for increased European defence autonomy necessitates a rapid reinforcement of the continent's defence capabilities. The European rearmament drive (ReArm) underlines the importance of localized defence production and industrial self-sufficiency. The Greek industry, through initiatives like this, plays a pivotal role in contributing to Europe's strategic independence, while also creating highly skilled jobs and fostering technological advancements. With this agreement, METLEN is making a substantial commitment to Greece's and Europe's industrial base.

METLEN has long been a key player in heavy and complex metal constructions, with its Volos industrial facility recognized for its international defence manufacturing. The Volos plant, established in 1963, has evolved into a highly specialized unit with 100% of its production being export-oriented over the past two decades.

To further support its expanding role in defence manufacturing, METLEN announced at the beginning of 2024 the creation of a new advanced metal structures production unit, scheduled to be operational by 2026. Additionally, the company has acquired two additional facilities in the Volos Industrial Zone, currently undergoing transformation to integrate into METLEN's broader industrial ecosystem.

With METLEN's extensive manufacturing capabilities and KNDS France's expertise and know how in land defence systems, this collaboration represents a critical step in bolstering Greece's and Europe's defence readiness while reinforcing industrial capabilities that will support the region's strategic autonomy for years to come.



# **“Cyprus National Guard Digital Transformation in the Age of Artificial Intelligence War”**

***2025 C4ISR International Conference***

***11-12 November 2025, Nicosia, Cyprus***



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**Greek Defence News**





## NHIndustries

### NH90 – Multinational Military Helicopter

NHIndustries is a French SAS company, based in Aix-en-Provence. It is wholly owned by Airbus Helicopters, Leonardo Helicopters and Fokker and provides the focal point for these companies for the NH90 programme. Established in 1992, NHI has managed the design, development and entry to service of the NH90 for both NAHEMA (NATO Helicopter Management Agency) and export customers. NHIndustries is certified to EN 9100, ISO 9001 and AQAP 2110, for prime Contractorship and Management of International Aeronautical Programmes.

Designed to fulfill NATO requirements for both land and naval operations, the NH90 integrates cutting-edge technology, including the world's first fully fly-by-wire control system in a production helicopter, as well as extensive use of composite materials and advanced sensors.

Introduced into service in 2007 following its first flight in 1995, the NH90 exists in two main variants:

- TTH (Tactical Transport Helicopter): Focused on land operations, capable of transporting up to 20 troops, conducting medivac missions, special operations, and cargo transport.
- NFH (NATO Frigate Helicopter): Tailored for maritime roles such as anti-submarine warfare (ASW), search and rescue (SAR), and shipborne operations.

As of March 2024, over 500 NH90 units have been produced and are operated by a dozen countries, including Italy, Germany, France, and Spain.

NH90 continues to serve a critical role in NATO-aligned forces, with ongoing modernization efforts aimed at extending its service life, improving operational readiness, and expanding mission capabilities.

A standout innovation is its four-channel fly-by-wire flight control system, the first of its kind in any production helicopter. Integrated with a four-axis autopilot, it enables greater operational autonomy and reduced pilot workload.

Key features include:

- All-weather, day-and-night operations, including shipboard missions in high sea states and extreme temperatures (-40 °C to +50 °C).
- Powered by either Rolls-Royce Turbomeca RTM322 or GE CT7-8F turboshaft engines, with infrared suppression for stealth.
- Composite fuselage and rotor blades, offering low radar signature, reduced weight, and increased durability and endurance.
- Modular cabin with a rear ramp and side doors, accommodating 20 troops, 12 stretchers, or light vehicles.
- Crashworthy design, soundproofing, and environmental controls for enhanced crew and passenger safety and comfort.

Mission-specific systems include:

- Modular armor, ice protection, HIFR (Helicopter In-Flight Refueling) capability, and extra fuel tanks for extended missions.
- Hoist, rappelling systems, cargo hook, wire strike protection, and emergency flotation gear for over-water safety.
- Maritime features such as Harpoon deck-locking, automatic blade folding, dipping sonar, and sonobuoy processing systems for ASW roles.

The NH90's flexible architecture, mission adaptability, and modern technologies make it a key multi-role platform despite challenges with maintenance and logistics in some user nations.



## ReArm Europe Plan/Readiness 2030

The European Commission has introduced a comprehensive White Paper on European Defence, along with the ReArm Europe Plan/Readiness 2030. The initiative aims to enhance Europe's defense capabilities and readiness in response to emerging security threats, with a particular focus on strategic autonomy and sustainability.

### Key Objectives:

**European Strategic Autonomy:** Strengthening Europe's ability to defend itself independently of external powers, particularly the United States. The plan calls for the development of a more unified and integrated European defense structure, reducing reliance on NATO and American military support.

**Military Readiness and Modernization:** The Rearm Europe Plan outlines the need for modernization and upgrading of Europe's defense capabilities, including weapons systems, technologies, and military infrastructure. The 2030 Readiness Target aims to ensure that European defense forces are fully prepared to respond to crises and conflicts by the year 2030. The plan includes significant investments in research, innovation, and joint defense projects across EU member states.

**Increasing Defense Spending:** The Commission is advocating for increased defense spending among EU member states, in line with a new framework that bypasses current fiscal constraints. This funding will be used for technological advancements, personnel training, and the development of new defense systems. In light of the current exceptional circumstances, the Commission will raise up to €150 billion on the capital markets, drawing on its well-established unified funding approach to help EU Member States rapidly and substantially increase investments in European defense capabilities. These funds will be disbursed to interested Member States upon demand, on the basis of national plans.

**Cooperation and Coordination:** The White Paper emphasizes the need for closer cooperation among EU member states, particularly in the areas of joint defense procurement and military exercises. It also proposes fostering closer ties with international partners like NATO, while asserting European defense priorities.



© EDA

**The Role of the European Defence Agency (EDA):** The EDA is positioned as a central player in facilitating the development and integration of European defense initiatives, ensuring that resources are used efficiently across member states.

**Cybersecurity and Non-Conventional Threats:** The White Paper highlights the growing threat of cyber-attacks and the importance of bolstering European cyber defenses. It also addresses the challenges posed by hybrid warfare, disinformation campaigns, and other non-conventional security threats.

**Long-Term Vision (2030):** By 2030, the European Union aims to have a fully integrated and interoperable defense infrastructure capable of responding quickly to a wide range of military and non-military crises. A focus is placed on fostering innovation, enhancing the EU's global security role, and ensuring the defense industry's competitiveness in the global market.

In conclusion, the White Paper on European Defence and the ReArm Europe Plan/Readiness 2030 represent a bold step towards increasing Europe's defense capabilities, improving strategic autonomy, and ensuring that the EU is better prepared for future security challenges.



**Today we put forward a plan to tackle immediate threats and build up Europe's longer-term defence. We do this not to fight a war, but to prepare for the worst, defend peace in Europe, and stand strong for a world where might cannot make right.**

EU High Representative for  
Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Kaja Kallas





## European Commission pushing member nations for greater strategic autonomy

The European Commission and High Representative of the EU for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy presented the White Paper for European Defence – Readiness 2030 alongside the ReArm Europe Plan/Readiness 2030. This landmark initiative aims to significantly enhance Europe's defense capabilities in light of the increasing security challenges, including Russia's aggression in Ukraine. The White Paper serves as a guiding framework for the EU's defense strategy, while the ReArm Europe Plan allocates financial resources to boost investment in defense infrastructure and technological innovation.

The White Paper presents a comprehensive approach to addressing the long-term security needs of Europe and aims to close critical gaps in the continent's defense capabilities. These efforts are essential for strengthening the security architecture in Europe and safeguarding its future. Key objectives include:

The White Paper identifies the critical defense capabilities that need immediate attention. The EU must address these shortfalls to ensure it is prepared for evolving threats. The document emphasizes support for the European defense industrial base through aggregated demand and increased collaborative procurement. It calls for more European defense purchases, aiming to strengthen the EU's technological and industrial capabilities in the defense sector.

Given the ongoing conflict with Russia, the White Paper outlines enhanced military assistance to Ukraine and encourages deeper integration of Ukrainian and European defense industries. Simplifying regulations to create a more unified defense market is a critical step toward ensuring a stronger European defense posture.

The White Paper underscores the importance of adopting disruptive technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI), quantum technologies, and cyber defense to modernize defense systems. Strengthening military mobility, improving stockpiling, and fortifying external borders,

especially with countries like Russia and Belarus, are vital to Europe's readiness for worst-case scenarios. The strategy encourages strengthening partnerships with like-minded countries globally, recognizing the need for international collaboration to bolster security.

The ReArm Europe Plan/Readiness 2030 introduces a financial structure to significantly boost Europe's defense investments. With a total spending capacity of over €800 billion, the plan is organized into several key pillars:

The Commission has proposed activating the Stability and Growth Pact's national escape clause, allowing EU Member States additional budgetary flexibility for increased defense spending. This activation will allow defense expenditure to rise by up to 1.5% of GDP per year, over a four-year period.

Security Action for Europe (SAFE) will enable the Commission to raise €150 billion on capital markets to support Member States in rapidly increasing defense spending. These funds will be provided in the form of long-maturity loans to be repaid by the respective countries, and they will be used to procure defense equipment from the European defense industry. The program will allow not only EU Member States but also Ukraine, EFTA/EEA countries, and security and defense partners to participate in common defense procurements.

The European Investment Bank (EIB) will expand its lending to include defense and security projects, ensuring adequate funding is available for strategic defense investments. The Savings and Investments Union Strategy will further enhance the channeling of private savings into defense and security projects, helping to meet investment needs that cannot be fully covered by public funding.

The EU will focus on procurement and collaborative development of essential military systems such as air defense, cybersecurity capabilities, and military transport assets. The EU plans to continue supporting Ukraine with advanced defense systems while integrating Ukrainian defense needs with European capabilities. The EU will work to stimulate innovation within its defense industry by focusing on the development and procurement of cutting-edge technologies. Efforts will also be made to create a more integrated EU-wide market for defense equipment to streamline procurement and reduce costs. The European Defense Agency (EDA) will work to improve military mobility across Europe, particularly focusing on reinforcing external borders with high-risk countries such as Russia and Belarus. Stockpiling and logistical support for a rapid response to crises will be prioritized.

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The White Paper for European Defence – Readiness 2030 and the ReArm Europe Plan/Readiness 2030 represent a bold new step in Europe's approach to security and defense. The EU has recognized the pressing need to increase investment in defense, close critical capability gaps, and strengthen its defense industrial base. The EU's commitment to a stronger, more integrated defense system will play a key role in addressing both short-term security challenges, such as the war in Ukraine, and the long-term defense needs of the continent. With financial levers in place and a clear roadmap for action, Europe is positioning itself as a stronger and more resilient security actor in an increasingly volatile world.

French President Emmanuel Macron has taken a bold stance on bolstering European defense capabilities, advocating for a reduction in reliance on U.S. defense systems and pushing for greater strategic autonomy. His remarks, made during a meeting with French defense industry leaders, emphasized the importance of offering European-made alternatives, such as the Rafale fighter jet and the SAMP/T air defense system, to countries currently considering American-made systems like the F-35 and the Patriot.

Macron stressed that Europe must enhance its defense industrial base to gain strategic autonomy and reduce dependence on U.S. arms.

Alternatives: The SAMP/T air defense system (developed by France and Italy) is being promoted as a potential alternative to the U.S. Patriot missile system. The Rafale fighter jet is being proposed as a replacement for countries considering the F-35, such as Portugal, which is looking to replace its aging F-16s. While emphasizing the need for increased production, Macron acknowledged that France's ability to ramp up Rafale production is constrained by industrial limitations at Dassault Aviation and its suppliers.

Macron called for European countries to pool defense resources and collaborate on military spending. He pointed to the need for joint procurement and greater integration within the European Union to fund defense projects.

Macron highlighted the €800 billion rearmament plan approved by 27 European nations, with €150 billion in loans allocated.

Macron also supported German Chancellor Friedrich Merz's plan to boost Germany's defense spending by €100 billion, underlining the importance of European nations meeting their defense obligations. Macron proposed creating a Franco-German debt fund to support defense investments, with discussions set to continue at the upcoming European Council meeting.

This initiative marks a significant push by France to position European defense technologies as a viable alternative to U.S. systems, strengthening Europe's defense independence. It could also reshape defense procurement strategies in several European countries, particularly those currently reliant on American military hardware. The success of this plan, however, depends on Europe's ability to overcome industrial constraints and coordinate on defense spending across the region.

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**THEON secures additional orders of more than €50 million in Q1 2025, a combination of Night Vision Goggles and A.R.M.E.D. products. An additional c.€50 million was transferred from soft to hard backlog.**

- Newly awarded contracts increase soft backlog by more than €50 million
- Already announced orders of c.€50 million move from soft to hard backlog
- A.R.M.E.D. products are increasing traction in many countries

THEON INTERNATIONAL PLC (THEON) announces newly awarded contracts that increase soft backlog by more than €50 million. At the same time, other previously secured orders (soft backlog) worth approximately €50 million move to THEON's hard backlog. The new orders primarily require deliveries in 2025-2026, increasing coverage at the bottom of the range of 2025 guidance to c.90%.

The newly awarded contracts mostly include orders from Northern European countries. Aside from Night Vision Goggles (NVGs), part of the orders relates to the recently launched A.R.M.E.D. ecosystem of products. THEON expects more orders for these products in the near future. At the same time, it is in advanced stages in several tenders worth hundreds of millions. More details are expected to be announced in Q2.

Philippe Mennicken, Business Development Director of THEON, stated: "The anticipated increase in demand, driven by the recent geopolitical environment, is expected to accelerate new orders and the exercise of options at a pace faster than usual. THEON is well-positioned to swiftly deliver both Night Vision and Thermal Imaging products, thanks to its high production capacity and the availability of critical components.

THEON's participation in the IDEX-NAVDEX 2025 (International Defense Equipment Exhibition) held in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, on 17-21 February 2025, was completed with a strong presence.

At THEON's stand at IDEX-NAVDEX 2025, which is characterized as one of the largest international exhibitions in the field of defense and security, the integrated solution of the A.R.M.E.D. ecosystem of connected devices had a dominant position, apart from the company's already best-selling night vision and thermal imaging systems. THEON presented its new Augmented Reality Modular Ecosystem of Devices (A.R.M.E.D.), in partnership with its subcontractor software company SCYTALYS, as its proposal for the "Soldier of the Future".

The A.R.M.E.D. ecosystem of devices is an integrated system that radically upgrades the capabilities of the modern fighter, increasing tactical situational awareness, effectiveness, and survivability.



## Multinational CIMIC Exercise «ARGONAUT 2025»

The Multinational Civil-Military Cooperation Exercise «ARGONAUT 2025» was successfully concluded today. The exercise was conducted across the maritime, aerial, and land domains of the Republic of Cyprus. It was carried out with the cooperation of the Ministries of Defence and Foreign Affairs, under the overall coordination of the National Guard, and with the participation of numerous government agencies, as well as aeronautical and naval assets from the Republic of Cyprus and foreign countries.

The exercise, which unfolded in three phases, involved the implementation and evaluation of the Special National Plans «ESTIA» and «TEFKROS», which pertain to the reception of non-combatants from neighboring conflict zones and the management of Mass Search and Rescue (SAR) incidents within the area of responsibility of the Republic of Cyprus.

The first phase, coordinated by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the National Guard, consisted of a tabletop simulation and the implementation of the «ESTIA» plan, which involved a scenario of evacuating and receiving civilians from a crisis area. A total of 16 governmental services of the Republic of Cyprus participated, alongside representatives from 31 countries and 2 international organizations participating in the Non-combatant Evacuation Operations Coordination Group (NEOCG).

The second phase, coordinated by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, involved the practical implementation of the «ESTIA» plan, focusing on the reception and management of mass arrivals of foreign nationals at the Port of Limassol by the relevant Cypriot authorities.

The third phase, which also constituted Distinguished Visitors Day (DV Day), was conducted on April 10th, 2025, and focused on Search and Rescue operations under the coordination of the Joint Rescue Coordination Center (JRCC Larnaca). The scenario involved the management of naval and aircraft accidents within the Search and Rescue Region of the Republic of Cyprus, with the implementation of the «TEFKROS» plan. A total of 850 personnel and 28 aeronautical and naval assets from Cyprus, Egypt, France, Greece, the United Kingdom, the United States of America, State of Israel, and Italy participated in the exercise, along with representatives from private companies.

The exercise was observed from the «ZENON» Coordination Center by the Minister of Defence, Mr. Vasilis Palmas, the Chief of the National Guard, Lieutenant General Georgios Tsitsikostas Ambassadors and representatives of participating countries as well as 130 observers from 31 nations and 2 international organizations. As part of the exercise framework, the annual conference of NEOCG member states will also be held tomorrow, April 11th, 2025, focusing on the review and coordination of evacuation actions and procedures for the repatriation of their nationals from crisis areas.

The testing of the Special National Plans provided a valuable opportunity to implement and further improve the response capabilities, coordination mechanisms, and interoperability among all participating entities, as well as to evaluate the operational procedures of the competent services in managing scenarios involving mass reception of non-combatants. The successful execution of the exercise, with the participation of a substantial number of personnel and assets from foreign countries, once again demonstrated the important role and readiness of the Republic of Cyprus to serve as an international hub for humanitarian operations and as a pillar of stability and cooperation in times of crisis in the wider Middle East region.





## Albania: Prime Minister Rama and Minister Vengu inspect YIHA-III kamikaze drones in Kuçova Air Base

Together with Prime Minister Edi Rama, Minister of Defense Pirro Vengu inspected the Kuçova Air Base. The Albanian Air Force has deployed YIHA-III kamikaze drones, marking a significant development in the country's military capabilities. These drones, developed by China, have gained attention for their combat performance, notably in recent conflicts. Here's a breakdown of what the deployment could mean:

The YIHA-III is a type of loitering munition (LM) or kamikaze drone designed for precision strikes. It carries explosives onboard and can hover over an area, waiting for the perfect moment to target and strike a pre-designated enemy. These drones are equipped with high-resolution cameras and advanced targeting systems, allowing them to be used in tactical operations where precision is critical. Key features:

- **Range:** The YIHA-III has a fairly long operational range, potentially up to 100-150 km (depending on payload and configuration).
- **Payload:** Typically carrying a warhead designed to inflict maximum damage to ground targets.
- **Autonomy:** Capable of autonomous flight and target acquisition, or remote-controlled if necessary.

The deployment of the YIHA-III would mark a modernization step for the Albanian Air Force. The drone's precision targeting and ability to engage high-value targets would improve Albania's defensive and offensive capabilities, especially in low-intensity conflict scenarios.

Albania is situated in a region with complex geopolitical dynamics, where the integration of advanced technologies like the YIHA-III enhances the country's military deterrence capabilities. The deployment of such drones could potentially act as a force multiplier, allowing the Albanian military to conduct operations with fewer assets on the ground while achieving greater precision.

The deployment of the YIHA-III also signals closer military cooperation between Albania and China. Although Albania is a NATO member, the use of Chinese-made drones is a reminder of how countries sometimes procure military technology from diverse sources based on cost, capability, and geopolitical considerations. This move could be part of broader defense diversification strategies. While NATO generally relies on Western technologies, the Albanian Air Force's use of the YIHA-III may raise questions about its integration into NATO's collective defense framework. However, it's not uncommon for NATO members to use diverse equipment, especially for non-core functions such as air support and surveillance.

The introduction of such drones could have wider implications for the Balkans and surrounding areas. The use of YIHA-III drones might raise concerns from neighboring countries about military escalation or the introduction of more potent strike capabilities in the region. Influence other regional powers to enhance their drone capabilities, potentially leading to an arms race in loitering munitions and other autonomous weaponry.



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## Main topics

- Aerial Firefighting
- Firefighting aircrafts and helicopters
- Wildland Fire Management
- Management and command of fire operations in urban buildings
- Firefighting simulation & Training
- Liquid fire extinguisher and Firefighting foams
- Early Warning Firefighting System
- UAV to improve situational awareness in Fire Fighting
- Firefighting drones
- Firefighting Vehicles
- Off-road forest firefighting vehicles
- Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus
- Firefighter Protective Clothing
- Torch that stretches light across dark, hazardous environments
- Fire Fighting Vessels

## 2026 Athens International Firefighting Conference

4-5 March 2026, War Museum, Athens, Greece

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**Greek Defence News**



# COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS MAKE THE DIFFERENCE!

Aeromaritime communications system of the German F125 class frigates have demonstrated exceptional reliability during their worldwide deployment as part of the INDO-PACIFIC Deployment (IPD) 2024.

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SYSTEM  
INTEGRATION

ANTENNA  
SYSTEMS

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MESSAGE  
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