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Hellenic Army Modernization

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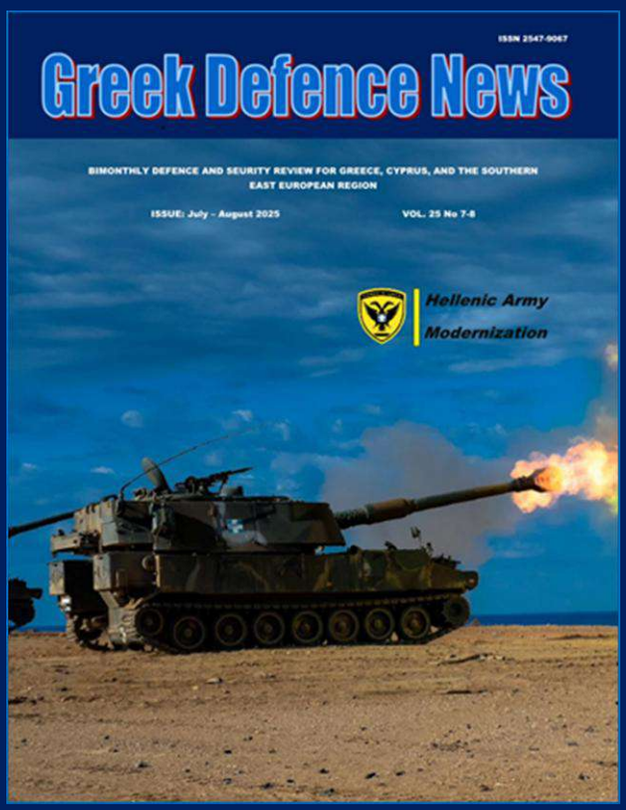

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Editor-in-Chief:
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DBDC INTERNATIONAL DEFENCE PUBLICATIONS&EVENTS LIMITED
11 Zinonos Sozoustr, Office 103,
CY-1075 Nicosia, Cyprus,
Tel : 00357- 22475406,
Fax : 00357- 22475606,
Email:dbdc@skynet.be
www.dbdcgroup.com

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EUROPE:
Stephen Barnard CEO, ADJUTANT MTCT:
M: +49 228 3500886
M: +44 7984 033154
F: +44 1252 315324,
stephen.barnard@web.de
stephen.adjutant@gmail.com

BRUSSELS POC: Av. Gribaumont 54,
Woluwest.Labert, 1200 B
Bruxelles, Belgium,A
Tel+322
e-mail dbdc@skynet.be

UK POC, DBDC INTERNATIONAL DEFENCE PUBLICATIONS&EVENTS UK LTD:
27 Old Gloucester Street London WC1N 3AX
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Hellenic Army in 2025

In the context of the modern reality of military operations, the Hellenic Army promotes jointness as a vital aspect of its strategy. Cooperation between different specialties and services provides for the most effective coordination of resources and capabilities. Furthermore, the exchange of knowledge and experience between services reinforces flexibility and adaptability in various demanding situations, establishing a connective and effective strategic mechanism. Jointness, as a basic element of training and operational philosophy, aims to effective cooperation between the Armed Forces services. From joint training up to the constant exchange of knowledge, the Hellenic Army reinforces joint collaboration, establishing a combined and effective strategic environment for the countering of modern threats.

The Hellenic Army, realising the importance of jointness, strives for the unhindered collaboration between its various Arms and Corps, securing the harmonious operation in peacetime, tension, crises and wartime. With the use of joint procedures and protocols, the various Directorates, Units and Formations can jointly achieve their operational and strategic goals, establishing an environment capable for action in every operational field.

The reinforcement of the Hellenic Army presence in fields like telecommunications, cyber-security and the development of new technologies contribute to the building of a modern, effective and flexible structure.

The Hellenic Army's orientation towards modernisation constitutes a vital part of our strategy on security and the safeguarding of our national interests. Investment on sectors like research and information technology, aiming to upgrade and modernise equipment, procedures and weapon systems. Hellenic Army is implementing new, innovative procedures and modernizing its functions, following the latest standards in the field of defence.

The Hellenic Army is organized in Independent Modules, Units, Regiments and Formations. Those elements fulfill the Combat, Combat Support and Combat Service Support functions. Amongst them, the Military Police Directorate is supporting the activities of the Centre

Greece's Defense Ministry has completed the second phase of a major military reform aimed at streamlining operations and cutting costs. As part of the initiative, 21 military units have been consolidated or relocated across the mainland and islands, following the earlier decommissioning of 31 units since late 2024. The reform, guided by recommendations from the Hellenic Army General Staff, targets inactive, understaffed, or strategically redundant units. Despite the restructuring, frontline capabilities in sensitive areas like Thrace and the Aegean islands will remain intact, with National Guard units being reorganized for more efficient deployment.

The next two phases, expected to conclude by the end of 2025, will be the most extensive, involving the closure of an additional 106 units. The reform aims to reduce that number to 694, generating an estimated €1.7 billion in savings over the next decade.

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.

© HAGS - Chief of Hellenic Army General Staff, Lieutenant General Georgios Kostidis, visited Units in the Hellenic Army

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Hellenic Army Armament Programs

The Hellenic Army is undergoing a substantial and multifaceted modernization initiative, part of a broader effort by the Hellenic Armed Forces to enhance Greece's defense capabilities amid evolving regional security challenges. These programs cover nearly every aspect of the army's operations, from ground vehicles and helicopters to infantry equipment and loitering munitions.

Infantry Fighting Vehicles (IFVs)

A flagship program involves the procurement of 205 new tracked Infantry Fighting Vehicles (IFVs) for mechanized battalions. These will significantly improve the mobility and protection of infantry units on the modern battlefield. Additionally, 100 new wheeled IFVs are being sought to provide versatile, rapid deployment capabilities for infantry formations.

On 26 March 2025, KNDS France and Greece's Metlen Energy & Metals signed an exclusive partnership to locally produce the VBCI Philoctetes IFV. The deal includes technology transfer and manufacturing in Volos, marking KNDS's first large-scale 8x8 vehicle partnership and aiming to support Greek and broader European defense needs.

M113 APCs upgrade

The Hellenic Army is interested in upgrading its fleet of M113 APCs including installation of unmanned remote-controlled towers that can be equipped with a minimum of a 12.7 mm machine gun as well as the upgrade of the steering system, electronics, engine and armor. Candidate companies are considered the Israeli ELBIT Systems, RAFAEL and IMI, the UK BAE Systems, the US company TECMOTIV.

Anti-Tank Weapon Systems

To bolster long-range anti-armor capabilities, the Hellenic Army came to an agreement with Israel's Rafael for SPIKE NLOS (Non-Line of Sight) systems. These are precision-guided and can strike at extended ranges, enhancing Greek deterrence. Plans are underway to replace legacy Soviet-era RPG-18s, FAGOTs, and MILAN systems, along with outdated U.S.-made LAWs, with modern short and medium-range anti-tank weapons. These replacements aim to ensure that infantry forces are equipped with reliable and advanced systems for close and middle-aged engagements.

Mortar Systems and Rifles

New Mortars 20mm: The army will replace old mortars mounted on M106A1/A2 carriers with modern 120mm mortars integrated into armored platforms, greatly enhancing indirect firepower and mobility.

Modern Rifles Acquisition: An initial 10,000 new rifles are planned to replace the aging Heckler & Koch G3A3 rifles, with an additional 10,000 to be purchased by the end of the decade. The first phase is budgeted at €20 million. Alongside new acquisitions, 10,000 G3A3 rifles will undergo modernization in collaboration with the state-owned Hellenic Defense Systems, extending their service life and improving their performance.

TRG M10 Sniper Rifles: The Hellenic Ministry of National Defence has awarded the Greek defense contractorATESE 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.

Armored Personnel Carriers and Utility Vehicles

M1117 Guardian Armored Security Vehicles (ASVs): Greece is acquiring 1,200 second-hand M1117 ASVs from U.S. surplus stock at just €70,000 per vehicle. While the units are unarmed, their cost-effectiveness and availability of spare parts make them a valuable asset. Armament like machine guns and grenade launchers will be locally added.

Replacement of Light Utility Vehicles: Plans are in place to replace 10,000 aging Mercedes and Steyr trucks and jeeps, with a budget of €550 million. Several international manufacturers have expressed interest, including Nexter (France), Oshkosh (USA), Iveco (Italy), and Plasan (Israel).

NH90 transport helicopters

On April 8, 2021, the Sixth Amendment to Contract No. 034A/03 was signed, concerning the supply of 16 NH90 transport helicopters—specifically, four NH90s configured for special operations and four with medical evacuation kits. The agreement was signed between the Hellenic Ministry of National Defence and NH Industries.

UH-60M Black Hawk Helicopters

Greece Enhances its Hawk Fleet with Purchase of 35 UH-60M Black Hawk Helicopters from Lockheed Martin. The U.S. Government has awarded Sikorsky, a Lockheed Martin company, a Foreign Military Sale contract to provide 35 UH-60M Black Hawk helicopters to Greece. The deal includes 35 aircraft for the Hellenic Army as well as personnel training, training equipment and an initial provisioning package, which will significantly improve self-defense and bolster interoperability within the nation and with NATO allies.

"Our partnership with Greece spans decades, and we are pleased to see the nation's continued trust in Sikorsky helicopters as Greece will benefit from an integrated Hawk family of aircraft supporting national security and humanitarian missions," said Hamid Salim, Sikorsky vice president of Army and Air Force Systems. "The Black Hawk helicopter offers

Greece a range of operational capabilities and a global ecosystem of more than 5,000 Hawk aircraft operated by 36 countries around the world. “The newly contracted UH-60M Black Hawk helicopters are an additional testament for the long-standing relationship Lockheed Martin shares with Greece, its Armed Forces and defense industries for over 80 years,” said Costas Papadopoulos, international business development executive director for Greece at Lockheed Martin. “The Black Hawk helicopter is the workhorse of multi-mission medium lift aircraft and will enable Greece to perform key operations in the region. These helicopters will join Greece’s upgraded F-16Vs, new MH-60Rs, existing F-16s, C-130s, and S-70Bs, as well as future F-35s. This enhanced fleet will provide Greece with extended capabilities for air, land, and sea operations, contributing to the nation’s security for years to come.” With its existing S-70B fleet and newly acquired MH-60R maritime helicopters for the Hellenic Navy, Greece will operate several variants of the Hawk family and benefit from the operational and sustainment advantages of fleet commonality. The Black Hawk has flexibility to conduct a variety of operations at greater ranges and in the most challenging environments, increasing survivability and overall effectiveness for 21st Century Security® missions.

Combat Engineering Vehicles

An international tender was launched for the acquisition of 12 used AECVs with a budget of €24 million. These vehicles are essential for clearing roads, obstacles, and disaster response missions. Germany’s FFG Flensburger Fahrzeugbau GmbH is among the companies participating. Their offerings include the WiSENT 1 and 2, and recovery modules for platforms like Boxer and ACSV G5, demonstrating broad experience in vehicle modernization and engineering platforms.

Loitering Munition Capabilities

Switchblade Drones Acquisition: Greece is entering the loitering munitions domain with a deal to procure 590 Switchblade drones from the U.S. company AeroVironment, funded partially through U.S. Foreign Military Financing.

- Switchblade 300 (Lightweight/Short Range): Ideal for infantry use, offering 20 minutes of flight and 10 km range. The upgraded Block 20 version includes a new fire control unit and EO/IR optics for real-time reconnaissance and strike capability.
- Switchblade 600 (Medium Range): Equipped with a high-explosive anti-armor warhead, this system offers 40+ km range and 40 minutes of loiter time, with the ability to strike armored vehicles. It features EO/IR gimbaled sensors, precision guidance, and re-attack capability.

These "kamikaze drones" offer revolutionary tactical options for reconnaissance and precision strike, tested in recent global conflicts like Ukraine.

“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.

Shipbuilding in Greece, Defence Sector Overview

Greece, with one of the longest coastlines in Europe and a vital geopolitical position at the crossroads of the Eastern Mediterranean, has always relied on a strong naval presence. The domestic shipbuilding industry plays a crucial role in supporting the Hellenic Navy and strengthening national security. Over the decades, this sector has been both a strategic asset and a reflection of the broader challenges facing Greek industrial policy.

The backbone of Greece's defence shipbuilding lies in three main shipyards: Hellenic Shipyards S.A. in Skaramangas, Elefsis Shipyards, and ONEX Neorion Shipyards in Syros. Each has played a significant role in naval construction and maintenance but has also faced unique difficulties.

Hellenic Shipyards S.A. in Skaramangas is one of the largest shipyards in the Eastern Mediterranean. Historically, it has constructed and maintained submarines, frigates, and other major naval vessels for the Hellenic Navy. However, the shipyard has faced prolonged ownership disputes, issues with EU state aid regulations, and chronic underinvestment, which have hindered its full operational potential.

Elefsis Shipyards is another major player, known for building fast attack craft, landing ships, and other military vessels. Recently, the shipyard has undergone a restructuring process with the involvement of ONEX Shipyards, aiming to revive its production capabilities. There is active discussion about Elefsis playing a role in the co-production of future naval platforms, such as the planned Hellenic corvettes.

ONEX Neorion Shipyards in Syros represents a more recent success story. Through privatization and foreign investment, this shipyard has been revitalized and now provides repair and maintenance services, including support for the U.S. Navy's 6th Fleet. With growing international partnerships, ONEX Neorion is positioning itself as a candidate for participation in future frigate and corvette programs.

In recent years, there have been several major developments that have reshaped the landscape of Greece's defence shipbuilding industry. One of the most significant is the agreement with France's Naval Group for the procurement of Belh@rra-class frigates. This deal includes provisions for industrial participation, which could involve Greek shipyards in support and potential production activities, creating important opportunities for domestic industry. Another notable development is the deepening cooperation between Greece and the United States. ONEX, in collaboration with the U.S. International Development Finance Corporation (DFC), has initiated major investments to modernize Greek shipyards, thereby reinforcing NATO's southern flank and enhancing Greece's role as a defence hub in the Eastern Mediterranean.

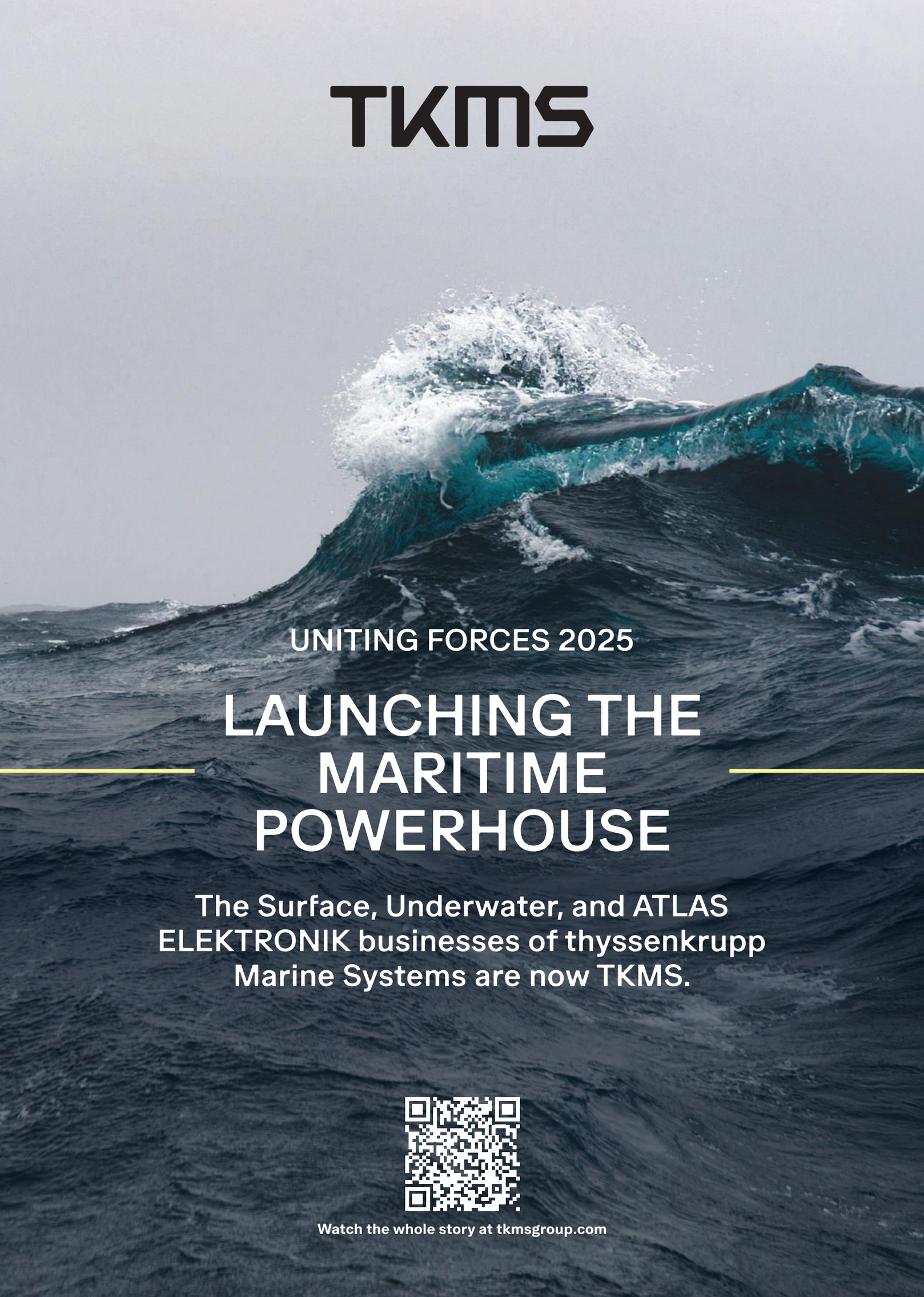
Furthermore, Hellenic Navy's modernization plan, targeting completion by 2030. The initiative seeks to address years of delay in upgrading larger ships, primarily frigates, and focuses on standardization, modularity, and sustainability. The strategy includes acquiring new vessels, upgrading existing ones, and constructing ships locally. Even major programs form the core: FDI frigates, new corvettes, Constellation-class frigates, Hydra-class upgrades, Fast Attack Craft (FACM), new Submarines and upgrade of the existing ones and coastal patrol boats. The FDI program is progressing well, introducing advanced ASTER 30 missiles and new UAVs. Greece plans to acquire 3+1 corvettes, aiming for local shipyard involvement. The Constellation-class initiative, through Foreign Military Sales (FMS), envisions eventual domestic production and regional export potential.

The Hydra-class modernization will extend the frigates' life by 15 years. FACMs, especially the Roussen-class, are set for a mid-life upgrade, while new FACMs will replace aging vessels. The patrol boat program includes upgrades to Island-class ships and new Protector-class vessels, with modern sensors and weaponry. These projects are driven by evolving regional threats and geopolitical dynamics, aiming to enhance Hellenic Navy interoperability with allies and ensure long-term maritime defense capabilities.

Despite these positive developments, the Greek defence shipbuilding sector still faces significant challenges. Chronic underinvestment and years of state neglect have weakened infrastructure and limited innovation. Legal and bureaucratic complications, particularly related to ownership and EU competition rules, continue to hamper the full activation of strategic shipyards like Skaramangas. Additionally, a significant portion of the skilled workforce has either retired or emigrated during the prolonged periods of inactivity, leading to a shortage of expertise that could hinder future production timelines. Perhaps most critically, the lack of a unified national strategy for the defence industrial base has led to fragmented efforts and missed opportunities for long-term development. Greece stands at a crossroads. There is a clear opportunity to turn the domestic shipbuilding sector into a pillar of national and regional defence capability. This can be achieved by developing strategic industrial partnerships with global defence leaders such as Naval Group, Lockheed Martin, and Fincantieri. These collaborations can transfer know-how, open new markets, and accelerate the modernization of Greek facilities.

In parallel, the creation of defence and maritime innovation clusters—linking universities, research centres, and industry—can ensure long-term technological competitiveness. Investment in new areas, such as unmanned naval systems and smart naval infrastructure, would position Greece at the forefront of emerging defence technologies.

Participation in EU defence initiatives, particularly the European Defence Fund (EDF) and Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO) projects, can provide both funding and political support to modernize the naval sector and integrate it into Europe's broader security architecture. Greek defence shipbuilding has the potential to be a cornerstone of national sovereignty, economic resilience, and regional influence. After years of stagnation, there is now a "window of opportunity" driven by geopolitical shifts, international partnerships, and renewed strategic interest from both allies and private investors. To capitalize on this moment, Greece must implement a coordinated national strategy that supports innovation, industrial capacity, and skilled labour. With the right vision and execution, Greece could emerge not just as a user of advanced naval systems, but as a producer and regional leader in maritime defence manufacturing and support.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Salamis Shipyards Delivers Pre-Outfitted Sections for French Navy's FDI Frigate Amiral Castex

On August 18, 2025, Salamis Shipyards marked a significant milestone by delivering a new series of pre-outfitted sections for the French Navy's third defense and intervention frigate (FDI), designated as Amiral Castex. This substantial achievement strengthens Salamis Shipyards' strategic alliance with Naval Group, highlighting the shipyard's reliability in managing high technical complexity projects utilizing cutting-edge technology.

The blocks, constructed at the shipyard located in Salamis, Greece, have already embarked on their journey to Naval Group's facility in Lorient, France, where they will be integrated into the ongoing construction of the frigate. This delivery comprises four meticulously crafted blocks essential for assembling the Amiral Castex.

Salamis Shipyards' involvement in the FDI project represents a pivotal moment for the Greek naval defense sector, as it signifies the first instance where a Greek shipyard contributes to the development of advanced warships for another nation's fleet. This collaboration with Naval Group, which began in 2022, encompasses the construction of FDI frigates for both the Hellenic Navy and French Navy. The agreement facilitates the production of pre-equipped sections for up to six frigates in total, marking a significant leap forward for Greece's defense industry.

Just over a year ago, Salamis Shipyards successfully delivered five pre-equipped blocks for the Hellenic Navy's third FDI frigate, Formion, which has since transitioned into its final construction phase. By July 2024, the facility had already completed the delivery of corresponding blocks for France's second FDI frigate, Admiral Louzeau.

In addition to the current delivery, Salamis Shipyards has further solidified its partnership with Naval Group by signing a six-year Follow-On Support (FOS) contract for the FDI frigates. This agreement ensures ongoing technical support for both nations' vessels, with provisions for future upgrades and logistical services, showcasing the deepening relationship between the two shipbuilding entities.

Dr. Georgios Koros, President of Salamis Shipyards, emphasized the significance of this cooperation, stating that it reflects Greece's growing capabilities in naval defense shipbuilding. He stressed the importance of precision and responsibility towards both international partners and the nation, aiming to bolster the role of the domestic industry in sectors vital to national security.

Salamis Shipyards, with over four decades of experience, remains a cornerstone of Greece's defense and shipbuilding industry. The shipyard is equipped with modern facilities and a skilled workforce, ensuring compliance with European and NATO standards. This expertise, coupled with knowledge transferred from Naval Group, has enhanced the specialized skills and certifications at Salamis Shipyards, enabling successful execution of complex military and commercial projects. The cooperation underscores the historic nature of this initiative, as Greece had never before participated in the construction of a warship component for a foreign military. Similarly, the collaboration marks an unprecedented move by France in entrusting production of its military assets outside its borders. This extraordinary partnership is set against the backdrop of advanced technology embodied in the FDI frigates being constructed, carrying significant implications for both nations. As Salamis Shipyards emerges as a key player in Franco-Hellenic relations, the shipyard is also investing in modernizing its facilities and expanding production capabilities. This strategic focus will allow for the development of increasingly complex vessels for both defense and commercial purposes, further solidifying Greece's position in the global shipbuilding arena and enhancing its export potential.

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Whether supporting a command center, securing a power grid, or managing a coordinated CBRN response, IANUS transforms R&D into real-world readiness. Its software solutions embody the next frontier of digital command superiority for those tasked with protecting Europe's people, assets, and borders.

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

Minister of National Defence Nikos Dendias Presents Phase B of "Agenda 2030" Armed Forces Reform

On 24 July 2025, Greek Minister of National Defence Nikos Dendias outlined Phase B of the "Agenda 2030" Armed Forces Reform during a detailed presentation at the Ministry's "Ioannis Kapodistrias" Hall. The event was attended by senior political and military leadership, including Deputy Minister Thanasis Davakis and the Chiefs of the Hellenic Armed Forces.

Dendias began by summarising Phase A, highlighting progress on several key fronts: the establishment of the *"Achilles' Shield"*—a comprehensive national deterrence strategy covering ballistic missile, anti-aircraft, anti-ship, and anti-drone defence systems; the formation of the Hellenic Centre for Defence Innovation, responsible for over 20 current R&D projects; and the introduction of a 12-year Armaments Planning roadmap aimed at bolstering Greece's domestic defence industry.

A core focus of Phase B is the new Force Structure, aimed at decentralising command and eliminating bureaucratic inefficiencies. Dendias announced the abolition of intermediate command levels, including the deactivation of the Hellenic First Army. In its place, four Supreme Military Commands will be established:

- Supreme Military Command of Thrace
- Supreme Military Command of Epirus and Macedonia
- Supreme Military Command of the Aegean and Eastern Mediterranean
- Hellenic Army Support Command

This restructuring is expected to enhance battlefield decision-making, free up thousands of work hours, and release hundreds of officers for more impactful roles. Dendias cited modern warfare, particularly in Ukraine, as proof that agility and autonomy are now more critical than ever.

The Armed Forces Housing Programme was also expanded. From 799 houses built over the past 20 years, the plan now aims to complete 2,059 houses by 2027, primarily in strategic locations like Thrace and the Aegean. Housing will be partially funded through a new National Defence Real Estate Fund, unifying the management of military property under one entity and overseen by a newly established Real Estate Development Authority.

On the fiscal side, Dendias revealed the savings from the reforms—€85 million annually from command restructuring and €16.5 million from merging military camps (45 more to be merged on top of 137 already closed). These savings will help fund pay increases and infrastructure projects.

A major change concerns conscript service. Starting 1st January 2026, all conscripts will serve in the Hellenic Army only, with rare exceptions for specific Navy or Air

Force needs (e.g., pilots or engineers). The Army will assume full responsibility for duties such as guarding naval and air bases. This policy aims to create a unified reserve force capable of retraining and mobilising more effectively in times of crisis.

Pay for enlisted soldiers will also be significantly increased—from €8.80 to €100 for those in remote areas, and €50 for those in the mainland—representing increases of over 1,000% and 468%, respectively. Additional allowances will raise pay for certain categories (e.g., single parents) even further.

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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

In terms of military justice, the number of Military Courts will be reduced from 15 to 6, after it was revealed that some courts were processing as few as 2–10 cases per year with large staff. This measure aims to optimise use of judicial personnel and reduce public expenditure.
Finally, Dendias announced the construction of defensive fortifications across Evros and the Eastern Aegean—adding 207 new projects on the mainland and 315 on the islands, with a projected budget of €65 million and a three-year timeline for full implementation.

Concluding, the Minister hinted at a forthcoming Phase C, stressing the need for continuous adaptation in light of evolving geopolitical and technological realities. He underlined the reform's guiding principles: transparency, efficiency, deterrence, and readiness—with the overarching goal of creating a modern, capable, and attractive Armed Forces for future generations.

Defence Minister Visited Lebanon

© MOD

On July 18, 2025, Greek Minister of National Defence Nikos Dendias concluded his official visit to Lebanon, where he held high-level meetings with the country's leadership. Dendias was received by President Joseph Aoun at the Presidential Palace, with Lebanese Defence Minister Michel Menassah, Secretary General for Religious Affairs George Kalantzis, and the Greek Ambassador to Lebanon Despina Koukoulopoulou also present.

During his meetings with Minister Menassah, Dendias discussed strengthening bilateral defence cooperation and regional security matters, also extending an invitation to Menassah to visit Athens. He also met with Lebanese Deputy Prime Minister Tarek Mitri, with whom he discussed the protection of Christian communities in the region. Dendias paid a significant visit to Patriarch John X of Antioch at the Patriarchal See in Balamand, discussing the challenges faced by Greek Orthodox communities, especially following a recent terrorist attack on the Prophet Elijah Church.

He emphasized Greece's commitment to supporting Orthodox Christians in the Middle East and highlighted the revival of the Greek-language program at the Balamand Theological School. Additionally, he announced a Greek defence initiative to supply retired military equipment to Lebanon under Greece's "Agenda 2030. The visit reaffirmed Greece's strategic interest in Lebanon's stability and its strong support for the Greek Orthodox population in the region.

Meeting Between GDDIA General Director and German General Director for Security and Defence Policy

On Friday, 11 July 2025, a bilateral meeting took place at the premises of the General Directorate for Defence Investments and Armaments (GDDIA) between the General Director of the GDDIA, Major General Ioannis Bouras, and the General Director for Security and Defence Policy of the Federal Ministry of Defence of the Federal Republic of

© GDDIA

Germany, Dr. Jasper Wieck. During the meeting, the two sides engaged in constructive discussions on issues of mutual interest, with a particular focus on enhancing bilateral defence cooperation. The exchange underscored the shared commitment of both countries to strengthening their strategic partnership within the framework of European and NATO defence initiatives.

Participation of the Chief of Hellenic Army General Staff in the 32nd European Armies Conference in Wiesbaden – Germany

From 14 to 15 July 2025, the Chief of Hellenic Army General Staff Lieutenant General Georgios Kostidis participated in the 32nd European Armies Conference conducted in Wiesbaden – Germany, organized by the Command of the US Army Europe and Africa.

ANTI-DRONE SYSTEM

ARM-28
UPGRADE KIT WITH JAMMER
for ZU-23-2 Anti-Aircraft Autocannon

WB GROUP

© Hellenic Army

Commanding General, and Chiefs of Armies of European states and the US, also participated in the Conference, which is among the top activities regarding cooperation and defence in Europe. The main theme of the Conference was "Building Readiness for Global Deterrence".

In the context of the Conference, the Chief of Hellenic Army General Staff conducted bilateral meetings with USAREUR-AF Commander Christopher Donahue, Chief of Staff & Deputy Commanding Guard of US Army Major General Levon Cumpton, as well as his counterparts from Armenia Lieutenant General Edvard Asryan, and from Romania Lieutenant General Ciprian Marin.

During these meetings, which took place in an excellent atmosphere, matters of mutual interest were discussed, and prospects for bilateral cooperation in the field of training were examined.

Arrival of HS PSARA at the Port of Mumbai

From Friday, July 11, 2025, to Sunday, July 13, 2025, HS PSARA arrived at the Port of Mumbai in India. During this period, the Commanding Officer of HS PSARA paid a visit to the Chief Staff Officer (Operations) of Headquarters Western Naval Command, Rear Admiral Vidhyadhar Harke, at the Naval Base in Mumbai. In addition, reciprocal courtesy visits were conducted between the crews of HS PSARA and Indian Frigate INS TEG (F45). The Ambassador of Greece to India, Ms. Aliki Koutsomitopoulou, visited HS PSARA, where she was briefed by the

© Hellenic Navy

Commanding Officer on the ship's capabilities and was given a tour of her facilities. On Thursday, July 10, 2025, a joint Passing Exercise (PASSEX) was conducted between HS PSARA and Frigate TARKASH (F-50) of the Indian Navy, in the maritime area west of Mumbai. During the training, live-fire exercises, communication and advanced maneuvering drills were carried out. This training contributed to enhancing the level of operational readiness and combat capability.

Official Visit of the Chief of the Air Staff of the Indian Air Force to the Hellenic Air Force General Staff

© Hellenic Air Force

On Monday, June 23, 2025, the Chief of the Hellenic Air Force General Staff (HAFGS), Lieutenant General (P) Dimosthenis Grigoriadis, welcomed to the HAFGS, the Chief of the Air Staff of the Indian Air Force, Air Chief

Marshal Amar Preet Singh, PVSM, AVSM, following an official invitation.

During his visit, the Chief of the Indian Air Force was briefed on the organization, mission, and operational activities of the Hellenic Air Force (HAF). Discussions were held on enhancing bilateral cooperation in both the operational and training domains.
The existing cooperation between the two Air Forces is demonstrated through their joint participation in exercises such as "Iniochos 23", "Iniochos 25", and the multinational exercise "Tarang Shakti 24", which strengthen interoperability and strategic collaboration between the two countries.

During his stay in Greece, the Chief of the Indian Air Force, accompanied by the Chief of the HAFGS, is scheduled to visit Hellenic Air Force Combat Wings as well as the Hellenic Air Force Academy at the Dekelia Air Base in Tatoi.

Annual C-27J Aircraft Users Conference – Spartan User Group 2025

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From Tuesday, June 10 to Thursday, June 12, 2025, the Annual C-27J Spartan User Group Conference 2025 was held in Athens, at the Hellenic Armed Forces Officers' Club. The conference was organized by the Hellenic Air Force Support Command (HAFSC), in collaboration with the manufacturer, LEONARDO Aircraft Division, and was attended by 38 representatives from the Air Forces of 11 countries and 46 representatives from 12 companies. From the Hellenic Air Force, personnel from the Hellenic Air Force General Staff, the HAFSC, and the 354 Tactical Airlift Squadron participated. The conference was opened by the Commander of the HAFSC, Lieutenant General (AF) Vasileios Broumas, and the Senior Vice President of Customer Support Services & Training of Leonardo, Mr. Raffaele De Rosa.

The purpose of the conference was to exchange experiences, technical knowledge, and views among the users of the C-27J aircraft regarding operational utilization and support matters. Additionally, updates were presented by the manufacturer on improvement actions for the aircraft's main systems, as well as on new technologies planned for implementation.

HELLENIC ARMED FORCES ARMAMENT PROGRAMS

GENERAL

Amended Submission Process for EDF Proposals – Role Transition to HCDI

As of July 28, 2025, the submission and support process for proposals under the European Defence Fund (EDF) Work Program 2025 (EDF WP25) has been officially revised, in accordance with recent legislation following the establishment of the Hellenic Centre for Defence Innovation (HCDI). This transition is formalised under Ministerial Decision ΦΕΚ Β'39/15 Jan 25. Under the new framework for Research and Development (R&D) program implementation, HCDI is now the primary body responsible for supporting EDF proposals submitted by Greek entities. The Directorate of Defence Investments and Technological Research (DDITR) of the General Directorate for Defence Investments and Armaments (GDDIA) will continue to collaborate with HCDI to ensure smooth procedural and strategic alignment. This shift is intended to streamline operations, strengthen support for the national defence innovation ecosystem, and enhance Greece's effectiveness in participating in EU defence initiatives.

Key Changes to the Submission Process: All Greek entities seeking support from the Ministry of National Defence (MoD) for participation in EDF WP25 must now submit their requests directly to HCDI via email at RnD@elkak.gr.

Previously submitted proposals to GDDIA have been forwarded to HCDI; no resubmission is necessary. Confirmation of receipt will be provided by HCDI. Revised Deadlines for Support Requests:

- Development Action (DA) – Coordinator: 31 July 2025
- Development Action (DA) – Partner: 5 September 2025
- Research Action (RA): 19 September 2025

Letter of Intent (LoI) Requests (if applicable): 14 August 2025. The proposal submission template (Annex "Γ") previously issued by GDDIA remains valid and unchanged. Following the submission deadlines, HCDI will evaluate all requests and issue support decisions accordingly. For assistance or clarification, entities may contact:

- Colonel (IT) Nikolaos Chrysopoulos, GDDIA/DDITR
  Tel: +30 210-7466455
  Email: nchrisopoulos@gdaee.mil.gr
- Commander Michail Pothitos HN, HCDI/RDI
  Tel: +30 210-7466505
  Email: m.pothitos@elkak.gr

More details about HCDI's mission and activities can be found at www.elkak.gr.

HELLENIC ARMY

Procurement of Passive-Type Individual Night Vision Devices

In May 2023, the Ministry of National Defence announced a Tender for the Award and Execution of a Framework Agreement for the program: "Procurement of Passive-Type Individual Night Vision Devices", with a 4-year duration, for the procurement of the equipment and the subsequent

follow on support of the passive-type individual night vision devices, to be carried out with one and the same economic operator. In November 2023 MOD announced the approval of participation applications for the following candidate companies in the tender and their advancement to the second phase of the competitive procedure, as they met the quality selection criteria:

Total Estimated Maximum Quantity: 4,881 units

Financial Details (including 24% VAT):

- Procurement Cost: €32,011,864.80
- Subsequent Support: €6,045,827.70
- Total Maximum Estimated Budget: €38,057,692.50

In November 2023 MOD announced the approval of participation applications for the following candidate companies in the tender and their advancement to the second phase of the competitive procedure, as they met the quality selection criteria:

- MILTECH HELLAS S.A.
- THEON SENSORS SINGLE MEMBER S.A.
- NVLS (NIGHT VISION LASERS SPAIN LTD)

On 24 June 2025, the Ministry of National Defence reannounced the tender No 01/2023, for the Award and Execution of a Framework Agreement for the program: “Procurement of Passive-Type Individual Night Vision Devices”

© THEON

THEON offers passive-type individual night vision devices that use image intensification technology to amplify residual light, including models like the Argus (a multi-purpose monocular), the Titans (a binocular system), and the DAMΩN (a clip-on sight). These devices are designed for various military and security applications, such as observation, surveillance, and weapon aiming, and come with features like automatic brightness control and manual gain control.

Miltech Hellas S.A. is a Greek defense technology company specializing in the design and production of advanced electro-optical systems, including passive-type individual night vision devices. These devices are primarily used by military forces for surveillance, targeting, and situational awareness during nighttime or low-visibility conditions. Among Miltech's key offerings in this category are the MLT-IRB series of handheld, multi-sensor binoculars

NVLS, a Spanish company, is specializing in man-portable night vision and thermal devices. NVLS specializes in developing ultra-compact, ultra-light, high-performance systems for land forces, aviators, and amphibious operators. The devices have been introduced as standard issue in the Spanish Armed Forces and Security Forces. Exporting activities are rapidly expanding to NATO countries, Asia, and LATAM.

HELLENIC NAVY

Greece to Start Discussing Acquisition of New Submarines

Greece will begin discussing a plan to acquire next-generation submarines to replace the Hellenic Navy’s aging vessels, Defense Minister Nikos Dendias announced on Monday.

“We are also starting the discussion on the acquisition of new submarines, over the course of a decade, of course. Submarines are not produced quickly,” Dendias stated during a short speech at the port of Piraeus, during an inspection of the Fleet by President of the Republic Konstantinos Tasoulas.

The minister emphasized that the acquisitions would occur “within the existing fiscal space that guarantees absolute respect for the Greek taxpayer. Every euro must be spent with absolute transparency.” No additional details of the plan were provided at this time.
The submarine procurement is part of a broader effort to bolster Greece’s naval capabilities in the Aegean and Mediterranean and maintain maritime superiority amid ongoing regional tensions.

HELLENIC AIR FORCE

Hellenic Air Force’s transport aircrafts modernization plan

Embraer’s C-390M military transport aircraft has been included as a potential option into Greece’s long-term defense planning, signaling a significant step in the modernization of the Hellenic Air Force. The aircraft is valued for its advanced performance, reliability, and lower life cycle costs compared to traditional models. Although immediate procurement is not anticipated, initial plans suggest the acquisition of at least three units, with the possibility of expanding the fleet later on.

Currently, Greece operates a diminished number of aging transport aircraft, including the C-130H Hercules, of which only a few remain operational. Efforts to secure decommissioned U.S. aircraft were eventually dismissed

due to prohibitive maintenance costs. Additionally, modernization initiatives are underway for other platforms, such as the C-27J Spartan fleet, which is set to receive extended support starting in 2026.

The C-390M's technical specifications, including superior range, speed, and altitude compared to its competitors, have been emphasized as key advantages. Powered by IAE V2500 engines, widely used in commercial aviation, it also promises efficient maintenance and parts availability. With several nations already operating or ordering aircraft, its adoption reflects a broader trend toward next-generation military transport solutions in Europe and beyond.

HOMELAND SECYRITY

HELLENIC FIRE SERVICE

Visit of the Minister for Climate Crisis and Civil Protection and EU Commissioner to the Fire Service Training Center in Nea Makri

On Friday, July 18, 2025, Greek Minister for Climate Crisis and Civil Protection Giannis Kefalogiannis and EU Commissioner for Equality and Crisis Management Hadja Lahbib visited the Fire Service Training Center in Nea Makri. Accompanied by senior fire officials, they toured the facilities and attended a live operational demonstration showcasing preparedness for the wildfire season.

A key moment of the visit was their meeting with the Czech firefighting unit, stationed in Greece under the EU Civil Protection Mechanism's Prepositioning Program. Greece continues to host the largest number of European firefighters under the initiative, with 323 personnel from Austria, Bulgaria, France, Moldova, Romania, and the Czech Republic deployed from July 1 to September 15, 2025, in Attica, Thessaloniki, and Patras.

The program aims to support Greek firefighting efforts and foster knowledge exchange among EU teams in real conditions. Greece also actively contributes, deploying 20 EMODE wildfire specialists to Corsica this September.

With participation from 14 EU countries and 641 firefighters, the program is also active in Spain, Portugal, and France. The Minister emphasized Greece's leadership in fostering EU solidarity through joint training, operational collaboration, and disaster response across Europe.

Supply Unmanned Aerial Vehicles for Aerial Surveillance

The Ministry of Climate Crisis and Civil Protection of Greece has issued a public tender for the procurement of seventy-one (71) mini multicopters as part of the national initiative to enhance aerial surveillance capabilities. This project falls under Action Code 16911, titled "Investments in the modernization of aerial means for civil protection," and is aligned with the national strategy for climate change adaptation and the prevention and management of climate-related risks, specifically wildfires.
The tender is structured as a mixed contract that includes both the supply of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) and the provision of technical support and operator training. The estimated value of the contract is seventy-eight thousand one hundred euros (€78,100.00), exempt from VAT in accordance with Article 32(b) of Law 5144/2024. The CPV code for the procurement is 35613000-4, covering unmanned aerial vehicles. The award criterion is the most economically advantageous offer based on the best quality-to-price ratio.

The procedure is an open international electronic tender. The Contracting Authority is the Ministry of Climate Crisis and Civil Protection, while the Executing and Conducting Authority is the Hellenic Corporation of Assets and Participations S.A. through its Strategic Contracts Unit. The project is funded by the European Union – Next GenerationEU under the Greece 2.0 Recovery and Resilience Plan.

The UAVs will be delivered to the Fire Material Management Warehouses located in Mandra, Attica. The Hellenic Fire Service is the designated operator for the systems. The duration of the contract covers all stages from delivery, final quantitative and qualitative acceptance, payment, imposition of any penalties, fulfillment of all contractual obligations, and release of guarantees.

Key deadlines include July 28, 2025, for submission of clarifications on the tender terms, and August 8, 2025, at 13:00 local time as the final deadline for offer submission. Offers will be opened the same day at 15:00. Submissions can be made electronically via the Promitheus platform (www.promitheus.gov.gr) or in printed form to HCAP's protocol service at its Athens office. This tender is a strategic part of Greece's broader efforts to strengthen its civil protection infrastructure and increase readiness for climate-related emergencies, especially wildfires.

Invitation for Preliminary Market Consultation on Technical Requirements for Aerial Asset Facilities

The General Secretariat for Civil Protection invites interested economic operators to participate in a preliminary market consultation regarding the technical requirements for housing and support facilities for aerial firefighting assets. In accordance with Law 4412/2016 (Articles 46–47), the consultation aims to prepare for future public tenders concerning construction of maintenance hangars, operational workspaces, aircraft shelters, office areas, warehouses, and parking spaces.

Participants are encouraged to submit non-binding, comprehensive technical and financial proposals. The consultation will be conducted online via the National P ublic Procurement System (www.promitheus.gov.gr) and will remain open for 20 days from the date of publication. Supporting documents, including draft technical specifications and schematic designs, are available on official websites.
Comments must be submitted through the ESHDHS platform. Submissions should include full company details.

Inputs will be evaluated, but are not binding, and will inform the development of final specifications aiming to promote fair competition and broad market participation

Strengthening the Coast Guard with Drones and New Recruits

During his visit to Samos, Greece's Minister of Shipping and Island Policy, Vassilis Kikilias, announced major upgrades for the Hellenic Coast Guard, including new high-tech vessels, drone cameras, satellite systems, and digital tools. These enhancements aim to strengthen maritime operations in the Aegean, particularly in the northeastern islands. He also revealed plans to recruit new personnel in October, specifically for the region.

Kikilias praised the Coast Guard's professionalism and dedication in safeguarding maritime borders, conducting rescues, and enforcing the law. He condemned criticism against the force, shifting focus instead to human smugglers who endanger lives. "Hands off our Coast Guard," he declared.

Joined by Coast Guard Chief Vice Admiral Tryfon Kontizas and Samos MP Christodoulos Stefanadis, the Minister visited patrol vessels, met local officials, and discussed port development, staffing, and infrastructure upgrades. He emphasized the role of ports and real estate in supporting local economies.

The visit included meetings with religious leaders and local government, reinforcing the state's commitment to the region. Officials commended Kikilias as a results-driven leader, confident in his ability to modernize maritime security. The visit highlighted Greece's ongoing investment in protecting its sea borders and supporting island communities.

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

PLASAN SASA

On July 30, 2025, a demonstration and field test were conducted by representatives of the Israeli defense company PLASAN SASA for senior officers of the Hellenic Army General Staff and the Directorate of Special Forces (. The event focused on presenting the capabilities and operational performance of the SANDCAT MK-V (TIGRIS) Special Operations Vehicle.

The SANDCAT MK-V, also known under the name "TIGRIS" in this configuration, is a next-generation 4x4 light tactical vehicle designed for high-mobility and high-threat environments. Built on a commercial Ford F-Series chassis, the SANDCAT combines military-grade protection with exceptional maneuverability, making it suitable for a wide range of missions, including reconnaissance, patrol, quick reaction, and special operations.

© Plasan- the SANDCAT MK-V (TIGRIS)

During the demonstration, PLASAN SASA's team showcased the vehicle's key features, including its advanced modular armor system, high payload capacity, customizable interior layout, and cutting-edge command and control integration capabilities. The SANDCAT MK-V offers STANAG Level 2 to Level 3 ballistic and mine protection, which can be scaled based on mission requirements, while maintaining a low visual profile and high speed on and off-road.

The live demonstration included on-site driving trials to display the vehicle's agility, acceleration, braking performance, and off-road capabilities. Attendees observed the vehicle in action across various terrains, as well as its ability to carry personnel and equipment while ensuring crew safety. The system's communication and situational awareness technologies were also highlighted, demonstrating compatibility with modern battlefield networks and mission systems.

PLASAN SASA emphasized the vehicle's modularity, enabling rapid configuration for different mission roles — from troop transport to surveillance and electronic warfare. The vehicle is also designed to be air-transportable by C-130 aircraft, further enhancing its operational deployment flexibility for special forces and rapid reaction units.

The demonstration provided Greek military officials with a hands-on understanding of the SANDCAT MK-V's potential to meet the demanding requirements of Greece's Special Forces and other elite units. The evaluation allowed for technical questions, feedback from experienced personnel, and discussion about integration into existing operational frameworks.

This event is part of broader efforts by the Hellenic Army to evaluate modernized solutions for mobility, protection, and tactical efficiency in line with emerging operational challenges and strategic priorities. The collaboration with PLASAN SASA reflects ongoing interest in strengthening special operations capabilities through the adoption of versatile and combat-proven systems.

The visit concluded with positive remarks from both sides and expressed interest in further technical assessments and discussions regarding potential acquisition or field trials under real mission conditions.

L3HARRIS

On Tuesday, July 1, 2025, a meeting was held between representatives of the US company L3Harris and senior officers of the Hellenic Air Force General Staff and the Tactical Air Force Headquarters. The purpose of the meeting was for the company to present the capabilities of the Viper Shield self-protection system.

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The Viper Shield self-protection system, developed by L3Harris Technologies, is an advanced electronic warfare (EW) suite designed specifically for the F-16 Block 70/72 fighter aircraft. It provides comprehensive protection against modern air-to-air and surface-to-air threats by detecting, identifying, and countering enemy radar and missile systems in real-time. Built as an integrated and internally mounted solution, Viper Shield eliminates the need for external pods, preserving aerodynamic performance and minimizing radar cross-section. The system includes radar warning receivers (RWR), electronic countermeasures (ECM), and digital radio frequency memory (DRFM) capabilities, enabling it to deceive or jam hostile radar and missile seekers effectively. One of Viper Shield's key strengths is its open systems architecture, which allows for future upgrades and easy integration with other onboard systems. It also ensures interoperability with allied forces and supports mission adaptability in complex and contested environments. Designed in collaboration with Lockheed Martin, the Viper Shield significantly enhances the survivability and operational effectiveness of the F-16 in both offensive and defensive roles. With growing electronic threats on modern battlefields, systems like Viper Shield are vital for maintaining air superiority and ensuring pilot safety in high-threat environments.

CYPRUS

Participation of the Minister of Defence in the Informal Meeting of the EU Foreign Affairs Council in Defence Ministers' Formation, in Copenhagen

The Minister of Defence, Vasilis Palmas, participated in the Informal Meeting of the European Union (EU) Foreign Affairs Council in Defence Ministers' formation, which took place in Copenhagen on August 29, 2025. During the meeting, Ministers discussed the current security situation in Ukraine and ways to further enhance EU military support. They also reviewed progress in implementing the White Paper on Defence Readiness 2030, with a focus on advancing specific capability development projects.

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Additionally, they exchanged views on the adaptation and future direction of the EU's Common Security and Defence Policy missions and operations, aiming to effectively respond to emerging geopolitical challenges and strengthen the Union's credibility as a security provider.In his interventions, the Minister of Defence reaffirmed the Republic of Cyprus's unwavering solidarity with Ukraine and highlighted Cyprus's emphasis on strengthening the European defence industrial base as a key prerequisite for achieving the Union's strategic autonomy.

ROMANIA

Romania and Greece – partners in the Military Mobility Corridor in NATO's South-Eastern region

Cooperation within NATO, the EU and at bilateral level, as well as the decisions adopted at the Hague NATO Summit, were the main topics of discussion during the meeting held on Friday, August 1st, between Minister of National Defence, Liviu-Ionuț Moșteanu, and the Ambassador of the Hellenic Republic to Romania, H.E. Ms Lili Evangelia Grammatika, which took place at the Ministry of National Defence headquarters. The officials discussed the NATO projects Romania participates in together with Greece, with an emphasis on the establishment of the military mobility corridor in NATO's South-Eastern area and highlighted the importance of the NATO Battle Group Romania, with France as framework nation. Minister Moșteanu wished Greece success in fulfilling the duties of the Chairmanship of the South-Eastern Europe Defence Ministerial (SEDM) over the next two years, a role that was recently taken over from Romania.

Cyprus Defence Ministry Engages Industry on EU's New "SAFE" Funding Instrument

On July 28, 2025, the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Cyprus convened a pivotal information session with stakeholders from the national Defence Industry Ecosystem. The event focused on the European Union's newly launched funding mechanism, **SAFE** (Support Action for Facilitating Equipment), which aims to reinforce the European Defence Technological and Industrial Base (EDTIB). The session marked a significant step in aligning Cyprus's defence sector with emerging EU strategies for joint procurement and industrial collaboration.

The SAFE instrument was introduced by the EU in response to growing geopolitical challenges and the need for a more integrated and resilient European defence infrastructure. By providing financial incentives and logistical support for the **joint acquisition of defence equipment**, the SAFE initiative encourages EU member states to reduce fragmentation, pool resources, and foster stronger industrial partnerships. In this context, Cyprus's decision to participate actively reflects a broader national policy to enhance defence capabilities through collaboration and innovation.

During the session, representatives from the Ministry of Defence presented the key features and objectives of the SAFE instrument, emphasizing its potential benefits for the Cypriot defence industry. Among the topics discussed were the **eligibility criteria**, **application procedures**, and the **strategic priorities** of the programme. Particular attention was given to how Cypriot companies, research centers, and institutions could position themselves to benefit from upcoming EU-funded procurement projects.

Attendees were also informed of the **next steps** in the implementation process. These include the creation of a national coordination framework to guide interested stakeholders, the identification of priority areas aligned with EU defence objectives, and the establishment of potential consortia with other European partners. The Ministry underlined its commitment to facilitating the active involvement of Cypriot entities in SAFE-related initiatives, recognizing the tool as a significant opportunity to stimulate innovation, technological advancement, and economic growth within the defence sector.

Importantly, the Ministry highlighted that Cyprus had been actively engaged in the **formulation of the SAFE mechanism** from the outset. Officials from the Ministry of Defence, in cooperation with other competent ministries, participated in EU-level working groups and consultations that shaped the final structure of the instrument. This proactive engagement ensured that the specific needs and perspectives of smaller member states like Cyprus were taken into account in the policy's design.

The launch of the SAFE initiative is seen as a critical development not only for the EU as a whole but also for Cyprus's evolving role within the European defence landscape. It offers an unprecedented opportunity for the local defence industry to integrate more deeply into European supply chains, access funding for innovation, and contribute meaningfully to joint procurement projects that support collective security goals.

In closing, the Ministry of Defence reaffirmed its strategic vision: to strengthen national defence capabilities while actively contributing to the EU's broader security architecture. By embracing the SAFE instrument, Cyprus takes a decisive step toward that vision, ensuring that its defence industry remains competitive, forward-looking, and firmly anchored in the European framework.

"Defence Minister Highlights Strategic Role of Hellenic Defence Industry in Safeguarding Sovereignty and Driving Economic Growth"

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On June 11, 2025, the Minister of National Defence of Greece, Nikos Dendias, delivered a keynote speech at the "Greece 2025–2030" conference, organized by Next is Now and Dome Consulting Firm at the E. Insurance Conference Centre. His address focused on the evolving security landscape in Europe and the critical role of Greece's defence industry in safeguarding national sovereignty and supporting economic development.

Minister Dendias began by underscoring the need for open and frank discussions about national defence, especially under the framework of "Agenda 2030." He welcomed constructive criticism, stating that identifying and correcting long-standing systemic failures must be a collective goal. Drawing attention to recent geopolitical shifts—such as Russia's ongoing invasion of Ukraine, the strategic reorientation of the United States toward the Pacific, and growing instability in regions like Sub-Saharan Africa, the Sahel, and the Middle East—he emphasized that Europe, and particularly Greece, can no longer rely entirely on others for its defence. Instead, Greece must take on the responsibility of defending its sovereignty and national interests independently.

The minister declared that "everything must change," referring not only to the structure of the Armed Forces but also to their operational culture and mindset. This vision is encapsulated in the national initiative known as the "Achilles' Shield," which aims to comprehensively modernize Greece's defence capabilities.

Reflecting on the past, Dendias acknowledged that Greece has historically allocated significant funds to defence—amounting to approximately €270 billion by 2004—yet much of that investment did not result in the development of a sustainable or effective domestic defence industry. As a result, the country missed opportunities to establish long-term defence autonomy and economic benefits. To address this, the minister advocated for the creation of a new national defence strategy built on broad political consensus, one that supports and develops the Greek defence ecosystem.

A central tenet of this renewed strategy is the requirement for Greek participation in defence procurement programs. Specifically, Greece now demands that 25% of the value of major defence programs be reinvested into the domestic industry. A recent example of this policy in action is the acquisition of a fourth Belharra-class frigate, which will be equipped with SCALP Naval cruise missiles—highlighting Greece's commitment to acquiring cutting-edge capabilities while boosting national industrial participation.

Dendias also introduced the Hellenic Defence Innovation Centre (ELKAK) as a flagship initiative in this transformation. ELKAK does not operate with conventional procurement tenders but instead issues "problem statements" defined by the Greek Armed Forces. Greek companies are invited to propose solutions to these challenges, and when promising proposals emerge, ELKAK supports them with funding to develop prototypes. These funds are drawn from national innovation budgets and allocated based on the technology readiness level of each solution.

A defining feature of this model is that ELKAK retains the right to use the resulting technologies for military purposes, while the commercial exploitation rights remain with the innovating companies—thus encouraging dual-use applications and future exports. One of the most successful examples of this approach is the KENTAVROS system, Greece's first indigenous anti-drone solution. Developed entirely through ELKAK, it has been tested in operational environments such as the Aegean and the Red Sea and is now being procured across the fleet at half the cost of comparable imported systems.

In another indication of the innovative potential being unlocked, Dendias noted that a recent ELKAK call for uncrewed surface vessels (USVs) received 32 proposals—far exceeding expectations. This enthusiastic response underscores the vibrancy and potential of Greece's defence innovation ecosystem.

The minister concluded his remarks by emphasizing that national defence is deeply interconnected with economic strength. A robust defence sector not only provides security but can also become a key contributor to the country's economic development through industrial growth and exports. He stressed the importance of supporting both established companies and the many emerging, youth-led ventures whose creativity and technological acumen are essential for the future. Greece, he affirmed, must ensure that these talented individuals and firms have the opportunities and incentives to stay and contribute to national progress

Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis Attends Handover Ceremony of New Firefighting Vehicles

On July 18, 2025, Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis participated in a ceremony at the Olympic Athletic Center of Athens (OAKA) for the official delivery of 164 new firefighting vehicles to the Hellenic Fire Service. The event, organized by the Ministry of Climate Crisis and Civil Protection, was also attended by EU Commissioner for Equality, Preparedness and Crisis Management, Hadja Lahbib.

The new vehicles, worth €15.55 million, include various types—personnel transporters, equipment carriers, and all-terrain water tankers with 12,000-liter capacity. The acquisition is part of the national “AIGIS” program, co-funded by the EU Recovery and Resilience Facility. In total, 296 new vehicles are expected to be delivered in 2025 and an additional 331 in 2026, aiming at a comprehensive upgrade of 1,400 vehicles in the Fire Service fleet by the program's completion. These vehicles will be equipped with modern communication systems and next-generation firefighting technologies.

During his speech, Prime Minister Mitsotakis emphasized that Greece is in the midst of one of the most challenging fire seasons in recent years due to extreme temperatures, strong winds, and the worsening climate crisis. In response, the government has deployed the largest firefighting force in its history—18,000 firefighters, over 1,500 forest commandos, and extensive aerial and ground support including 85 aircraft, more than 80 drones, and nearly 4,000 vehicles.

Mitsotakis highlighted the importance of European solidarity, thanking other EU countries for their support during crises. He noted that the 164 vehicles handed over represent just 1/10 of the total fleet that will be added through the AIGIS program.

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Commissioner Lahbib praised the vehicles as symbols of protection, readiness, and European collaboration, calling the AIGIS program a landmark investment in civil protection.

Climate Crisis and Civil Protection Minister Giannis Kefalogiannis described AIGIS as more than a procurement initiative—it’s a joint national and European effort to safeguard people, nature, and local communities. He stressed that these resources translate into faster response times, saved lives, and protected forests.

TAIPED’s Panagiotis Stampoulidis, who oversaw the procurement process, stated that the Strategic Projects Unit successfully managed over 900 transparent tenders, proving the program’s efficiency and institutional collaboration.

The Prime Minister also underscored the importance of prevention, noting over €400 million has been invested in forest clearing, firebreak creation, and early intervention projects. He reiterated Greece’s full support for increased EU funding for civil protection in the 2028–2034 budget and advocated for greater investment in climate adaptation, not just emissions reduction.

He closed by affirming the government’s commitment to equipping frontline responders with the tools they need to succeed. “Civil Protection appears when everyone else disappears—it is the face of the state when citizens need it most,” Mitsotakis said. He assured all emergency personnel of the government’s unwavering support during this difficult wildfire season.

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

Visit of the Minister for Climate Crisis and Civil Protection and EU Commissioner to the Fire Service Training Center in Nea Makri

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On 18 July 2025, Greek Minister for Climate Crisis and Civil Protection Giannis Kefalogiannis and EU Commissioner for Equality and Crisis Management Hadja Lahbib visited the Fire Service Training Center in Nea Makri. Accompanied by senior fire officials, they toured the facilities and attended a live operational demonstration showcasing preparedness for the wildfire season.

A key moment of the visit was their meeting with the Czech firefighting unit, stationed in Greece under the EU Civil Protection Mechanism's Prepositioning Program. Greece continues to host the largest number of European firefighters under the initiative, with 323 personnel from Austria, Bulgaria, France, Moldova, Romania, and the Czech Republic deployed from July 1 to September 15, 2025, in Attica, Thessaloniki, and Patras.

The program aims to support Greek firefighting efforts and foster knowledge exchange among EU teams in real conditions. Greece also actively contributes, deploying 20 EMODE wildfire specialists to Corsica this September.

With participation from 14 EU countries and 641 firefighters, the program is also active in Spain, Portugal, and France. The Minister emphasized Greece's leadership in fostering EU solidarity through joint training, operational collaboration, and disaster response across Europe.

DHC/CL-515 amphibious firefighting aircraft

De Havilland Canada has commenced the construction of Greece's first DHC/CL-515 amphibious firefighting aircraft, marking a significant milestone in the modernization of the country's aerial firefighting capabilities. The CL-515 is the next-generation version of the iconic "Canadair" and is being assembled at De Havilland Canada's production facility in Wheatland County, just outside Calgary. Building upon the strong operational legacy of the CL-415, the CL-515 introduces advanced features, including the use of new materials and improved corrosion protection, which contribute to lower maintenance costs. The aircraft is also equipped with a completely upgraded flight deck featuring a state-of-the-art avionics suite that enhances safety, situational awareness, and operational reliability, meeting current and future global navigation standards.

According to a Radio Canada report, construction of the aircraft's wing box — a key structural component where the wings are attached — is already underway. A Greek flag displayed near the structure identifies it as the aircraft destined for Greece. Notably, this will be the first production aircraft off the line, following the initial prototype.

The aircraft is scheduled for delivery in early 2028 and is one of 14 CL-515s ordered by Greece as part of a broader initiative to combat the increasing risk of wildfires driven by climate change. Under a contract signed in October 2024, a total of 22 CL-515 aircraft will be manufactured to serve European aerial firefighting needs. Additionally, the province of Manitoba in Canada recently ordered three more CL-515s.

In a further show of commitment to the region, De Havilland Canada has established a wholly owned Greek subsidiary, De Havilland Canada Hellas Ltd., as of May 23, 2025. This strategic move enhances local customer support capabilities and strengthens the company's operational presence in Southern Europe. Based in Greece, the subsidiary will provide faster response times, improved spare parts availability, and tailored service to Waterbomber operators throughout the country and the region.

According to Jean-Philippe Côté, Vice President at De Havilland Canada, the investment reflects both the company's confidence in the Greek market and its long-term commitment to supporting operators in the region for decades to come. This expansion marks a major step forward in both Greece's firefighting preparedness and De Havilland's global support strategy.

Israel Aerospace Industries and Fire Free Forests Join Forces to Launch a Game-Changing Aerial Firefighting Solution

IAI (Israel Aerospace Industries), a world-class aerospace and defense leader and Fire Free Forests (3F) have signed a strategic Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to co-develop a next-generation airborne firefighting platform to counter the growing global threat of wildfires, based on 767BDSF, a specially adapted version of IAI's BEDEK Special Freighter. This strategic collaboration marks a significant step in addressing the global fight against large-scale wildfires, which are intensifying due to climate change, posing severe environmental and economic risks and endangering human lives. The co-develop platform brings together IAI's world-class aerospace engineering and aircraft conversion capabilities with 3F's strategic vision, commercial leadership, and operational planning. Under the MoU, IAI will lead the development of an integrated solution designed to extinguish massive fires from the air. This solution includes:

- 767FF Fire-Fighter specially adapted aircraft equipped to carry and precisely disperse ~40 tons of fire-retardant material to halt fire spread and aid in its suppression
- Advanced sensor systems for real-time detection and identification of fire origins, wind and ground conditions
- A centralized Command and Control system to coordinate all operational assets—both airborne and ground-based

3F will oversee the commercial strategy, including the development of a subscription-based service model for governmental agencies, reinsurers, and climate resilience programs. 3F will also be responsible for business planning, financing, and engagement with public-sector clients worldwide.

Boaz Levy, President and CEO of IAI: "As wildfires grow in frequency and intensity due to climate change, the need for innovative, large-scale solutions has never been more urgent. We are proud to apply our advanced engineering and aircraft conversion capabilities to help protect lives around the world and look forward to collaborating with 3F on this."

Yaacov Berkovitz, Executive VP and General Manager of IAI's Aviation: "IAI continues to demonstrate its ability to develop cutting-edge solutions that address emerging global challenges and its unique capability to adapt airborne platforms into competent, mission-tailored solutions. This new firefighting platform fuses our world-leading expertise in aircraft conversion to deliver a highly effective response to climate-driven threats – a major leap forward in aerial firefighting capabilities."

Marc Berdugo, Funding Partner at Fire Free Forests added: "This partnership reflects a shared ambition: to bring to market the most effective and scalable aerial response to wildfires. Fire Free Forests aims to offer a decisive solution to the growing threat of mega-fires. On one hand, it is based on a substantial fleet of high-capacity firefighting aircraft. On the other, it introduces a cost-sharing model among major public stakeholders, through an innovative assistance and insurance approach. With IAI's world-class technical expertise, we are confident in our ability to deliver a powerful public-good instrument to safeguard lives, forests, and biodiversity."

The deployment plan for this new airborne firefighting platform envisions a phased rollout with progressive deployment milestones, supported by multiple international hubs in fire-prone regions, including the United States, Canada, Australia, and Southern Europe.

© IAI- Illustration of IAI and F3 solution

Major order of € 800 million for TKMS: Comprehensive modernization of six Type 212A submarines for the German Navy

- Modernization of submarines to ensure technological superiority in national and alliance defense
- Contract spans a total volume of more than € 800 million and a term of ten years
- TKMS as a reliable partner of the German Navy

TKMS has signed one of the largest service contracts in the company's history with the Federal Office of Bundeswehr Equipment, Information Technology and In-Service Support (BAAINBw). The official signing of the contract took place today in Koblenz. As prime contractor, TKMS will provide comprehensive modernization and support services for the six German Type 212A submarines. The order spans a total volume of more than € 800 million and will have a term of ten years.

The contract provides for the modernization of core systems on board the boats, in particular the navigation system and the command and weapons control system on the four older boats of the first batch. The objective is to secure the technological superiority of the German submarine fleet over the long term, in order to meet future challenges in national and alliance defense in a targeted manner.

The HDW Fuel Cell System coupled to a PERMASYN® motor enables long submerged operational periods and low indiscretion rates. Furthermore, the double-deck HDW Class 212A design excels with high availability quotas and the 2-crew manning concept. Providing superb capabilities to conduct independent long-term missions in deep seas as well as in extremely shallow waters, these boats are ideally suited for undetected reconnaissance and surveillance, also in areas where it is not possible or not desirable to employ other naval forces.

"This important service contract also strengthens our established and trusting cooperation with the German Navy in the area of maintenance," emphasizes Oliver Burkhard, CEO of TKMS. "As a maritime powerhouse, we will utilize the full range of services offered by TKMS and contribute to the high operational availability and performance of the German submarine fleet with our many years of expertise."

TKMS is a key industrial partner at the side of the German Navy. In the field of logistic support, the company offers a comprehensive range of services, from maintenance and repair to modernization and product-specific material logistics, thus making an important and long-term contribution to the technical readiness of the German submarine fleet. As a prime contractor in submarine construction, TKMS bundles the innovative strength of numerous small and medium-sized companies and thus also makes a significant contribution to industrial value creation in Germany.

TKMS is one of the world's leading suppliers of conventional submarines. The latest orders in the underwater sector include four more 212CD submarines for Germany and two more 218SG submarines for Singapore. As of May 2025, TKMS order backlog stood at a record level of € 18 billion and will ensure production capacity utilization and employment well into the 2040s. The service contract that has now been concluded also contributes to the further increase in the order book and prolongs the generally positive market situation.

MBDA on track with its acceleration of ASTER missile production

MBDA has delivered - through the OCCAR (Organisation for Joint Armament Cooperation) - the first batch of ASTER munitions from accelerated production measures that are part of the company's ramp-up efforts.

This delivery comes less than two and a half years after an initial contract with the OCCAR strengthening the air defence capabilities of France and Italy and a further contract to supplement stocks and accelerate production of ASTER missiles, including for the United Kingdom.

The delivery is a first step towards the schedule acceleration underway. It results from the investments made by MBDA and its industrial partners to meet the needs of its customers and strengthen Europe's resilience in the face of new threats.

On 23 July 2025, MBDA delivered the first batch of ASTER missiles less than two and a half years since the order was placed as part of a joint acquisition led by OCCAR with Eurosam, the Franco-Italian joint venture of MBDA and Thales.

This acquisition, launched in December 2022, is a cooperation between France and Italy, and supplemented by a further order in February 2025, aiming to strengthen air defence systems of European countries with the production of nearly 1,000 ASTER missiles for the armed forces of Italy, the United Kingdom and France.

The accelerated production of this first batch of missiles is a first step towards the schedule acceleration underway. It is the result of the investments and the actions taken by the MBDA Group, with its customers and partners, to meet the challenges of increasing production. The delivery confirms MBDA's ability to meet its commitment to reducing the production lead-time of ASTER missiles in 2026 by more than half compared to 2022 and deliver five times more ASTER missiles than originally planned in 2025.

Eric Béranger, CEO of MBDA, said: "The delivery of the first ASTER missiles that benefited from significantly reduced production times is a success for all MBDA teams. I thank them for their ongoing efforts, as well as the industrial partners and State actors involved. It demonstrates our commitment to working alongside our customers to ensure the ramp-up of our industrial facilities and the strengthening of our defence industrial and technological base. This acceleration will provide Italian, French and British armed forces with essential air defence systems to protect European skies, as demonstrated by the use of ASTER in the Red Sea and Ukraine, and increase NATO's defence capabilities."

MBDA introduced measures to ramp-up production as early as 2024 to accelerate delivery of missiles already ordered. These measures were formalized in February 2025 through the order of additional ASTER missiles for France, Italy and the UK. The Group has underpinned its ramp-up efforts, through investment, in particular in its production facilities in Bourges and Selles-Saint-Denis in France and in Fusaro in Italy. It has significantly recruited, built up raw material and component stocks, and supported its entire value chain in Europe. Between 2023 and 2025, MBDA will have doubled the production of new missiles for the Group as a whole and will continue to invest €2.4 billion between 2025 and 2029 to ensure the ramp-up of production over the coming years.

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Tenth FREMM Unit “Emilio Bianchi” Delivered to the Italian Navy

On 30 July 2025, the Italian Navy officially took delivery of the multi-role frigate *Emilio Bianchi* at the Fincantieri shipyard in Muggiano (La Spezia). This ship is the tenth and final “Legacy” FREMM (European Multi-Mission Frigates) vessel for Italy, marking the completion of the original FREMM program phase under the Italy–France international cooperation agreement managed by OCCAR (Organisation Conjointe de Coopération en matière d’Armement).

The ceremony was attended by high-ranking military and industry representatives, including OCCAR Director General Joachim Sucker; Vice Admiral Giuseppe Abbamonte, Director of the Italian Naval Directorate; Vice Admiral Giuseppe Berutti Bergotto, Deputy Chief of Staff of the Italian Navy; Admiral Flavio Biaggi, Commander of the Northern Maritime Interregional Command; Dario Deste, General Manager of Fincantieri’s Naval Vessels Division; and Giovanni Sorrentino, CEO of Orizzonte Sistemi Navali, alongside senior managers from Fincantieri, Leonardo, MBDA, and Elettronica.

The delivery of *Emilio Bianchi* completes the planned series of ten Italian FREMM units: four General Purpose, four Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW), and two Anti-Submarine Enhanced (ASW-E) variants. The *Bianchi* is the second ship in the ASW-E configuration. The program began in 2005, with the first unit delivered in 2013, and is recognized as one of the most successful European defense cooperation projects. To date, 18 FREMM frigates have been delivered overall—ten to Italy and eight to France.

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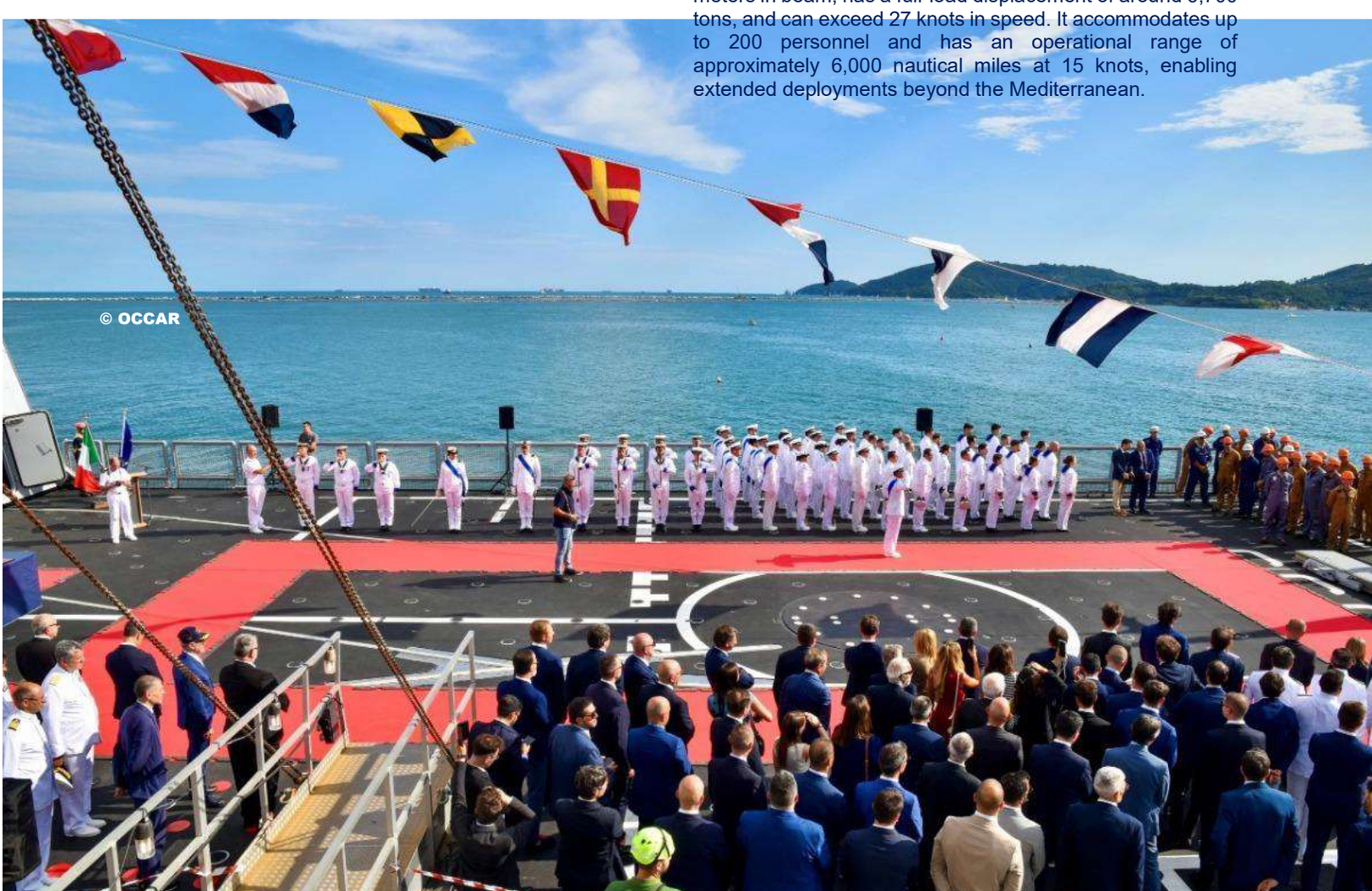
The *Emilio Bianchi*, built at Fincantieri’s integrated shipyards in Riva Trigoso and Muggiano, incorporates cutting-edge technology, advanced automation, and high cyber resilience. Designed for maximum flexibility, it can operate in all tactical scenarios, from anti-submarine missions to general fleet operations. The vessel measures 144 meters in length, 19.7 meters in beam, has a full-load displacement of around 6,700 tons, and can exceed 27 knots in speed. It accommodates up to 200 personnel and has an operational range of approximately 6,000 nautical miles at 15 knots, enabling extended deployments beyond the Mediterranean.



Significant attention has been given to Human Factors engineering, ensuring functional, comfortable spaces that enhance both crew efficiency and quality of life. The ship's design also prioritizes maintainability, ensuring high operational availability through optimized systems and logistics support.

The name *Emilio Bianchi* honors a decorated petty officer of the elite Decima Flottiglia MAS during the Second World War, awarded Italy's highest military honor—the Gold Medal of Military Valour—for extraordinary bravery. Delivery of the *Bianchi* was achieved three months ahead of schedule and only two months after the handover of the *Schergat*, underscoring the efficiency of collaboration between OCCAR, the Italian government, and the industrial partners. After a brief training period for its crew, the frigate will enter active service on maritime missions.

While the "Legacy" phase of the FREMM program is now complete, development continues. Under a July 2024 contract amendment, two new "FREMM EVO" frigates—evolutionary designs to counter emerging and more complex threats—are under construction at Fincantieri's Riva Trigoso and Muggiano facilities, with deliveries planned for 2029 and 2030.

These next-generation ships will build on the proven capabilities of the current FREMM class while integrating advanced combat systems and sensors tailored to future operational environments.

The FREMM program stands as a flagship example of European defense cooperation, combining Italian and French industrial and naval expertise to produce some of the most advanced and versatile frigates in service today.

NATO Integrated Defence: Leonardo's Capabilities at Formidable Shield 2025

During the Formidable Shield 2025 exercise, the Italian Navy's *Giovanni delle Bande Nere* showcased advanced Integrated Air and Missile Defence (IAMD) capabilities through the deployment of Leonardo's SADOC 4 command-and-control system and the Dual Band Radar suite. The exercise, part of the biennial At Sea Demonstr tion /Formidable Shield (ASD/FS25), was organised by the US Sixth Fleet and STRIKFORNATO to validate the performance of allied naval forces in complex, multi-domain operations The *Giovanni delle Bande Nere* is the first of the MPCS/PPA Multi Mission Combat Units in "full" configuration, equipped with the most advanced systems Leonardo has developed. In live-fire scenarios, the ship successfully demonstrated SADOC 4's ability to coordinate defence against diverse threats—ballistic missiles, aircraft, drones, and surface targets—with speed and precision.

SADOC 4 serves as the ship's "brain," integrating cutting-edge technologies to streamline operator interaction. Moving from traditional keyboards to multi-touch controls, the system offers a more intuitive interface, reducing decision-making time and improving situational responsiveness. Designed to meet both present and future operational needs, it enables rapid and efficient coordination in intercepting even the most sophisticated threats.

The Dual Band Radar is a versatile, high-performance radar suite adaptable to various ship types. Its multi-panel configuration ensures full coverage while minimising electromagnetic interference. Capable of simultaneously performing surveillance, target tracking, missile guidance, fire support, and electronic attack, it operates seamlessly in all directions. During ASD/FS25, the integrated systems enabled *Giovanni delle Bande Nere* to work cohesively with NATO allies, enhancing the collective situational awareness of the naval task force. The Dual Band Radar detected and tracked a short-range ballistic target through to sea impact and acted as a Forward Observer for medium-range ballistic missile launches from both land and sea. Data was shared in real time via tactical links, with tracking initiated within seconds and maintained over hundreds of kilometres, including supersonic speeds.

The exercise confirmed the ship's ability to detect, track, and disseminate targeting information rapidly, thereby integrating effectively into NATO's IAMD network. The Dual Band Radar's rapid tracking initiation and sustained accuracy, coupled with SADOC 4's efficient command-and-control, proved instrumental in the exercise's success. From 3 to 23 May 2025 in the North Sea, the *Giovanni delle Bande Nere* was recognised during the final forum for possessing one of the world's most advanced IAMD capabilities.

This recognition was based on the synergy of Leonardo's sensor technology with allied systems, especially those of the US Navy, enabling highly coordinated defence operations. The performance of SADOC 4 and the Dual Band Radar at Formidable Shield 2025 demonstrates Leonardo's significant contribution to NATO's integrated defence capabilities. It underscores Italy's role as a key contributor to maritime security, highlighting the strategic importance of advanced command, control, and sensor integration in modern naval warfare.

Major step towards low-cost Uncrewed Air System launched munitions to combat air and ground targets

BAE Systems has achieved a milestone in unmanned aerial warfare by successfully launching a precision-guided munition from a multi-rotor Uncrewed Air System (UAS) and destroying both air and ground targets during trials in the United States. This marks the first time that an APKWS® (Advanced Precision Kill Weapon System) laser-guidance kit has been deployed from a UAS in an air-to-air engagement, expanding the system's role beyond its established use on combat aircraft such as the F-16, F-18, and Apache helicopters.

The trials used a TRV-150, a modified version of the Malloy T-150 logistics drone adapted to meet US Marine Corps requirements, known as the SURVICE TRV-150. The demonstration took place at the US Army Dugway Proving Ground in Utah and exceeded expectations in all aspects, achieving zero misses against targets.

Originally designed as a tactical-edge logistics drone, the TRV-150 has now proven its capability as a multi-role offensive and defensive platform. By integrating BAE Systems' APKWS guidance kit—developed to convert unguided rockets into precision munitions—the UAS gained a cost-effective and flexible strike capability. The APKWS offers a low-cost alternative to conventional munitions while maintaining high precision, making it suitable for both counter-UAS roles and conventional battlefield targets.

The trials highlight the potential of integrating strike packages into existing UAS platforms, extending their functionality to engage targets at greater ranges than traditional ground-launched systems. This could provide frontline forces with a rapidly deployable, versatile tool that complements other aerial and ground-based assets.

Anthony Gregory, Business Development Director at BAE Systems' FalconWorks, described the achievement as a major step toward delivering affordable, high-performance tactical options for militaries. He emphasised the role of innovation and collaboration in meeting the evolving challenges of modern warfare, noting that unmanned systems are becoming increasingly important in defence arsenals.

Greg Thompson, President of SURVICE Engineering, called the integration of strike capability into the TRV a "force-multiplying game changer," underscoring its value in providing medium UAS-delivered strike capacity for both air and ground targets.

The project was a collaborative effort involving BAE Systems FalconWorks®, BAE Systems, Inc., SURVICE Engineering, and partners including Invariant Corporation, Arnold Defense, General Dynamics UK, and L3Harris. BAE Systems engineers in the UK contributed weapons integration expertise, ensuring smooth adaptation of the APKWS kit to the TRV-150.

Following the trials' success, the cross-Atlantic team plans to refine the system further for operational deployment. Future development will focus on enhancing autonomous capabilities and broadening the system's operational envelope. The integration of the APKWS onto a UAS platform represents a significant advancement in delivering precision effects at a fraction of conventional costs, offering allied forces a flexible and rapidly deployable tool for modern and future battlefields.

Poland Selects L3Harris Electronic Warfare System for F-16 Fleet

The government of Poland has selected L3Harris Technologies to provide its Viper Shield™ electronic warfare (EW) system for the country's F-16 Viper upgrade program.

Poland will purchase the AN/ALQ-254 Viper Shield system through the U.S. government to enhance the offensive and defensive capabilities of its current F-16 Block 52+ configuration. Viper Shield will equip Poland with the same advanced EW features available to other international allies operating the new F-16 Block 70 variant.

"We are honored Poland selected us to upgrade their F-16V multirole fighters," said Ed Zoiss, President, Space and Airborne Systems, L3Harris. "Viper Shield is in production and will enable pilots to identify, locate and counter rapidly evolving threats faster with enhanced success."

L3Harris is offering Viper Shield in a variety of installation options, including the integration into the Block 70/72 aircraft and a retrofit version for previous F-16 blocks. Viper Shield is also available as an external pod. Designed to be software-defined, Viper Shield ensures battlefield relevance by supporting future capability upgrades. The company is providing this advanced suite to F-16 fleets in seven countries and is actively engaged in discussions with other U.S. allies and partner nations. In partnership with Lockheed Martin and the U.S. Air Force, L3Harris is developing the new AN/ALQ-254(V)1 and (V)2 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.

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 intercept 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.

Viper Shield is designed with fewer critical components than previous generation EW systems. This not only results in a smaller form factor and reduced weight, but also a higher meantime between failure and lower lifecycle costs. The modular design supports swapping line replaceable units (LRUs) in the field. The design is also forward-looking by provisioning for future growth and enhancements. Its 3U COTS technology and software defined architecture will simplify future upgrades, enabling the warfighter to affordably modernize with new capabilities and technologies, minimizing obsolescence. SEAMLESS

One of Viper Shield's most impressive features is its compatibility with various F-16 configurations. It seamlessly fits into the Block 70/72 new aircraft, as well as the Block 40 and Block 50 F-16 fleets, including D-models, without requiring any redesign. It can also be integrated into previous F-16 blocks through a podded system, which attaches to an aircraft without requiring extensive internal modifications. That means fighter pilots will get the same level of protection regardless of internal or external configuration. This adaptability puts Viper Shield three to five years ahead of its competitors, guaranteeing that L3Harris' international partners receive the most advanced capabilities.

© L3Harris will provide the Polish F-16V fleet with the Viper Shield electronic warfare system as part of an upgrade program.

Netherlands advances C-390 capabilities with innovative aeromedical system including options for allied nations

- **Comprehensive roll on/roll off modular and flexible system will instantly transform any C-390 into a mobile hospital**
- **New capability is a testament to the outstanding evolution potential of this next-generation multi-mission aircraft**

Embraer, a global leader in the aerospace industry, and the State of the Netherlands have signed a landmark contract today to deliver a cutting-edge Aeromedical Evacuation System for the Royal Netherlands Air Force's C-390 Millennium fleet. The contract, which comprises one firm order plus seven purchase orders, was signed today by Vice Admiral Jan Willem Hartman (MSc), Commander of the Materiel and IT Command, and Bosco da Costa Junior, President & CEO of Embraer Defense & Security, during a ceremony at the Paris Air Show.

At the heart of the aeromedical system is a roll-on/roll-off medical module – a self-contained, air-transportable unit that functions as a mini hospital. It supports the treatment and transport of patients, including those requiring full life support. Its design also allows for the transport of infected patients, protecting the medical staff and the crew.

All components of the aeromedical system are fully compatible with the C-390's Cargo Handling System (CHS) and can be rapidly installed through the aircraft's rear ramp, ensuring seamless integration and deployment. This innovative system will significantly enhance the Netherlands' ability to conduct humanitarian, disaster relief, and military medical operations.

"This system will expand the operational capabilities of our C-390 Millennium fleet, transforming them into a modular airborne medical facility capable of delivering life-saving care both in the air and on the ground. With these new capabilities, we will be able to provide vital assistance when it is needed most," said Vice Admiral Jan Willem Hartman, Commander of the Materiel and IT Command, Royal Netherlands Air Force.

"The integration of this aeromedical system represents a major step forward in the evolution of the C-390 Millennium," said Bosco Da Costa Junior, President & CEO of Embraer Defense & Security. "We are proud to support the Netherlands in strengthening their aeromedical response capabilities with this innovative and mission-ready solution. This modular medical system, which will enable the saving of many lives throughout the aircraft's operational life, is a powerful example of the C-390's remarkable evolution potential."

Since entering operation with the Brazilian Air Force in 2019, the Portuguese Air Force in 2023 and, most recently with the Hungarian Air Force in 2024, the C-390 Millennium has proven its capability, reliability, and performance. The current fleet in operation has demonstrated a mission capability rate of 93% and mission completion rates above 99%.

The C-390 can carry more payload (26 tons) compared to other medium-sized military transport aircraft and flies faster (470 knots) and farther, being capable of performing a wide range of missions, such as transporting and dropping cargo and troops, medical evacuation, search and rescue, firefighting and humanitarian missions, operating on temporary or unpaved runways, such as packed earth, soil and gravel. The aircraft configured with air-to-air refueling equipment, with the designation KC-390, has already proven its aerial refueling capacity both as a tanker and as a receiver, in this case by receiving fuel from another KC-390 using pods installed under the wings.

Embraer is a global aerospace company headquartered in Brazil. It manufactures aircraft for Commercial and Executive aviation, Defense & Security, and Agricultural customers. The company also provides after-sales services & support through a worldwide network of wholly owned entities and authorized agents.

Since it was founded in 1969, Embraer has delivered more than 9,000 aircraft. On average, about every 10 seconds an aircraft manufactured by Embraer takes off somewhere in the world, transporting over 150 million passengers a year.

Embraer is the leading manufacturer of commercial jets up to 150 seats and is the main exporter of high value-added goods in Brazil. The company maintains industrial units, offices, service and parts distribution centers across the Americas, Africa, Asia, and Europe.

Portugal announces decision to acquire sixth KC-390 Millennium aircraft and inclusion of ten new purchase options

- **Sixth aircraft will allow for the expansion of Portuguese Air Force capabilities**
- **Ten new options may be used in future acquisitions by other European nations and NATO members**

Embraer a global leader in the aerospace industry, announced today during the 55th edition of the Paris Air Show that the Portuguese State has decided to acquire a sixth KC-390 Millennium aircraft. In August 2019, the government of Portugal and Embraer signed a contract for the acquisition of five KC-390 aircraft, and with this potential additional acquisition, the Portuguese Air Force's (FAP) transport fleet will include six new-generation KC-390 aircraft, expanding its capacity to fulfill the missions of the Armed Forces and other missions of public interest.

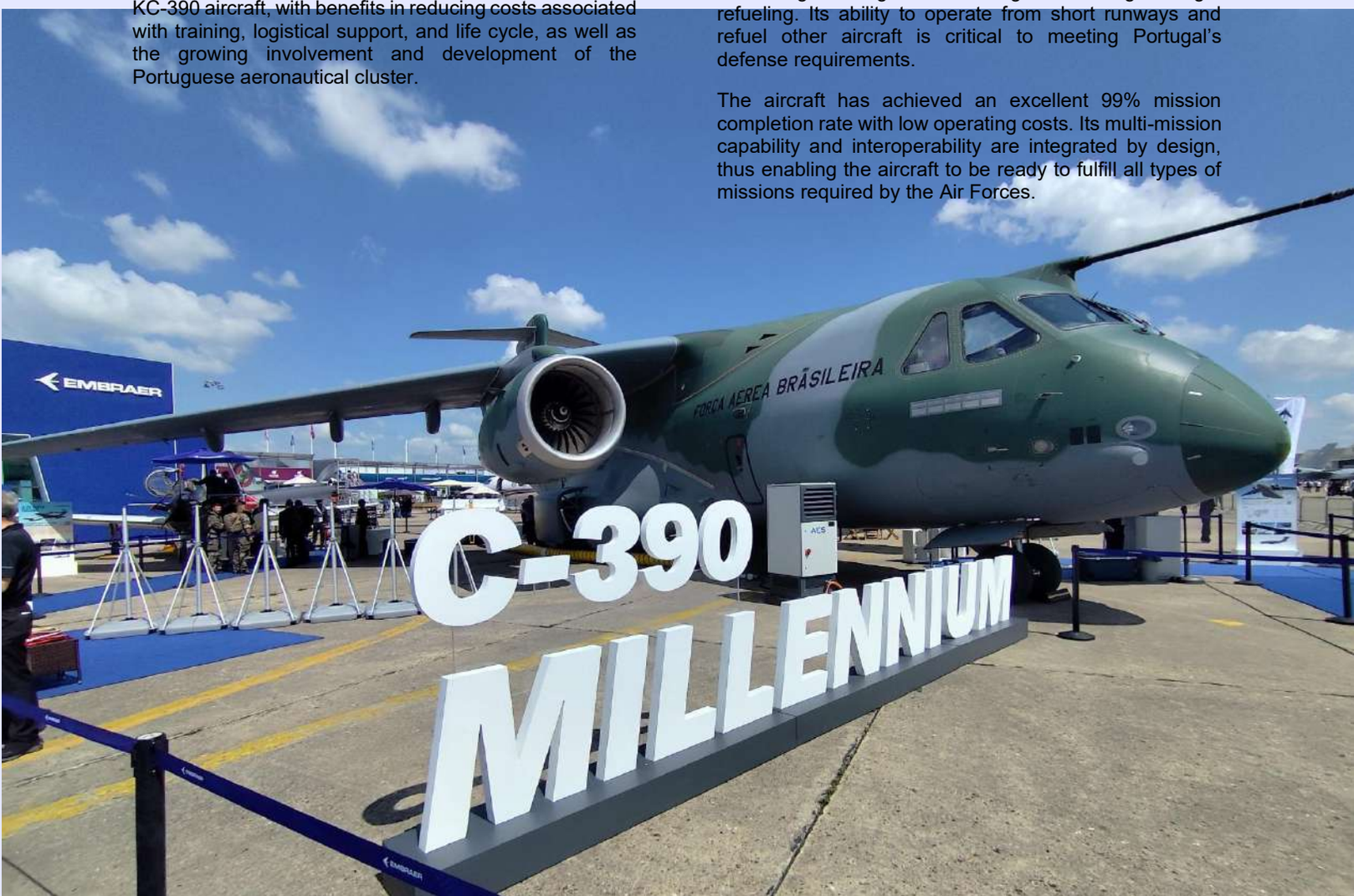
Additionally, Embraer and the Portuguese Air Force intend to include ten purchase options in the current contract for potential future acquisitions by European nations or NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) members through the Portuguese State, in government-to-government negotiations. This will allow for increased interoperability and cooperation with new operators of the KC-390 aircraft, with benefits in reducing costs associated with training, logistical support, and life cycle, as well as the growing involvement and development of the Portuguese aeronautical cluster.

"With this decision, Portugal continues to invest in the capabilities of the Air Force, at a time when it becomes the reference operator of this aircraft, which has unique characteristics, and which was integrated and tested in Portugal. The inclusion of ten purchase options for future government-to-government negotiations will allow other European and NATO nations to acquire, through Portugal, interoperable and versatile platforms, enabling for the continuous development of the Defense Technological and Industrial Base, with the consequent financial return for the country, and the affirmation of the Portuguese Air Force as a partner of excellence in operations and training for example through its KC-390 Training Centre," said Nuno Melo, Minister of Defence of Portugal.

"We are extremely honored with the possibility to expand our partnership with the Portuguese Air Force and the Portuguese State. The acquisition of the sixth KC-390 by the FAP, which has been operating the aircraft since 2023, will be the first additional purchase by an operator, which demonstrates the recognition of the quality and operational results that this aircraft has achieved. The interest in placing additional options on the contract is confirmation that more Western countries may very soon join this group of operators, benefiting all of them in economic synergies throughout the life cycle of the KC-390," said Bosco da Costa Junior, President & CEO, Embraer Defense & Security.

The KC-390 Millennium can perform a wide range of missions, such as cargo and troop transport and airdrops, aeromedical evacuation, search and rescue (SAR), humanitarian aid and disaster response (HADR), firefighting and aerial refueling (AAR), both as a tanker and receiver. In addition, the KC-390 Millennium can support maritime surveillance and SAR operations, increasing its range and loitering time through in-flight refueling. Its ability to operate from short runways and refuel other aircraft is critical to meeting Portugal's defense requirements.

The aircraft has achieved an excellent 99% mission completion rate with low operating costs. Its multi-mission capability and interoperability are integrated by design, thus enabling the aircraft to be ready to fulfill all types of missions required by the Air Forces.



Successful ASTER B1NT Firing and Qualification of Long-Range Missile and SAMP/T NG Air Defence System

A major milestone in European air defence was achieved with the successful second firing of the ASTER B1 New Technology (B1NT) missile at the DGA Essais de Missiles test range. This test, conducted in the presence of French, Italian, and UK representatives, validated the missile's long-range interception capabilities and marked a key step in qualifying the long-range performance of both the ASTER B1NT and the SAMP/T NG (New Generation) air defence system.

The ASTER B1NT missile, part of the latest generation of the ASTER family developed by *eurosam*—a joint venture between MBDA and Thales—demonstrated its ability to intercept aerial and missile threats at distances of up to 150 km and at higher altitudes. This second successful firing follows the initial test in October 2024 and confirms significant technological advancements in manoeuvrability, speed, stealth detection, and interception performance. This achievement is a critical development for the bilateral ASTER B1NT and SAMP/T NG programmes, managed by OCCAR (Organisation for Joint Armament Co-operation) on behalf of France and Italy. The system will be delivered to the French Air and Space Force, the Italian Army, and the Italian Air Force. Additionally, the ASTER B1NT missile will be integrated into other defence projects, including the Mid-Life Update of the Franco-Italian Horizon frigates.

The SAMP/T NG is the modernized successor to the original SAMP/T system, already operational in France and Italy. It is Europe's only fully sovereign long-range air defence solution, providing protection against a wide spectrum of aerial threats such as cruise missiles, ballistic missiles (including short and medium-range), anti-radar missiles, helicopters, UAVs, and aircraft. It delivers advanced anti-access/area-denial (A2/AD) capabilities, ensuring the security of both military and strategic civil infrastructures.

The system is designed for seamless operation within national and NATO/coalition air defence networks. It supports interoperability with friendly aircraft and offers 360-degree protection with the ability to engage multiple threats simultaneously beyond 150 km. The system includes four key components: up to 48 ready-to-fire ASTER missiles, a radar capable of detecting targets beyond 350 km, one engagement control module, and up to six launcher modules carrying eight missiles each. The entire setup is highly mobile and can be deployed in under 30 minutes.

ASTER B1NT is characterized by its cutting-edge aerodynamic and pyrotechnic design, incorporating a Ka-band seeker, advanced interception algorithms, and the latest generation of electronics. These technologies provide it with unmatched hit-to-kill accuracy and enable it to neutralize even the most advanced threats, including highly manoeuvrable and hypersonic missiles. The successful testing of ASTER B1NT not only confirms its performance enhancements but also reinforces eurosam's position as Europe's leading provider of sovereign medium and long-range air defence systems. As defence threats evolve, this programme stands as a testament to continued European innovation and strategic cooperation in air defence. The firing further validates the readiness of the SAMP/T NG and ASTER B1NT as pillars of European defence against current and emerging aerial and missile threats.

ARQUUS and Daimler Truck are joining forces

The French military vehicle manufacturer Arquus and the German commercial vehicle manufacturer Daimler Truck want to work closely together on a project-specific basis. This partnership serves strategic cooperation beyond the two companies' own business activities and includes joint vehicle development, production, sales and services in the area of military wheeled vehicles. The two companies aim to develop tailored products and processes to better meet the needs of customers in the defence sector, with a particular focus on contributing to the future modernization of the French Army's fleet of logistics trucks. To this end, Arquus and Daimler Truck combine their expertise and capabilities across their sites in France and Germany.

Emmanuel Levacher, CEO Arquus: "This partnership will take us forward together. Both companies know the needs of armed forces inside out and will also benefit from each other's many years of experience. This will have a positive impact on joint vehicle development, synergies in the area of production expertise and optimized service for our customers."

Daniel Zittel, Head of Defence Sales, Daimler Truck: "I am delighted about the partnership with ARQUUS, a company that has a lot of experience and expertise in the field of military commercial vehicles. What goes well together grows together here: Our companies have been producing in France and Germany for a long time, our products are highly compatible, our approaches, ideas and goals in the defence sector overlap. Now we are combining our strengths with regard to military commercial vehicles, and, in close cooperation, we want to make a decisive contribution to the defence readiness of our two countries."

Arquus and Daimler Truck maintain their relevant production sites for Defence vehicle production in France and Germany. The French military specialist produces exclusively in the country of its headquarters, which is located in Versailles.

Arquus' production facilities are in Garchizy and Limoges, in the center of France. Daimler Truck assembles its Defence vehicles in Wörth am Rhein, near the French border, and in its plant in Molsheim (Alsace, France).

The Molsheim plant is integrated into Daimler Truck's industrial operations in France, which employ over 3,000 people in total. In the future, the Franco-German partner project should also contribute to strengthen the locations in the neighboring countries.

Beyond national interests, the Arquus-Daimler Truck partnership is seen as a vital contribution to European defence autonomy. As both countries modernize their military capabilities, this collaboration serves as a model for effective cross-border cooperation in defence procurement and production. With their combined resources, manufacturing strength, and deep understanding of the operational needs of armed forces, Arquus and Daimler Truck are poised to deliver innovative and mission-ready solutions to meet the challenges of the future battlefield. The new alliance underscores a shared vision: to strengthen Europe's defence capabilities while supporting sustainable industrial development across national borders.

ARQUUS
A John Cockerill Company

DAIMLER TRUCK

IDE Secures New Contracts to Supply WiSPRevo Systems for the Lithuanian Armed Forces

In July 2025, IDE secured two new contracts, totaling €5 mil, continuing the supply of WiSPRevo systems for military platforms of the Lithuanian Armed Forces.

In the frame of C4I modernization, the Lithuanian Ministry of National Defense (MoND) has once again selected WiSPRevo as the preferred solution for upgrading communications capabilities across existing military platforms. Deliveries are scheduled to begin in early 2026, with system integration and commissioning to be performed by IDE's invested WiSPR Certified Maintenance Centre in Lithuania, operated by its long-standing industrial partner ELSIS TS. Additionally, the recent extension program for the supply of additional BOXER Infantry Fighting Vehicles to Lithuania incorporates a further contract with KNDS Deutschland for the provision of WiSPRevo systems.

IDE is honored and proud of its continued successful cooperation with the Lithuanian MoND, which enables the delivery of IDE's latest state-of-the-art advancements in communications systems to a NATO ally nation, enhancing communications effectivity and situation awareness in field operations.

IDE-US announces its cooperation with PAL

INTRACOM DEFENSE US, LLC (IDE-US), the newly launched U.S.-based affiliate of European defense technology leader INTRACOM DEFENSE S.A. (IDE), has announced a strategic cooperation with Peduzzi Associates, Ltd. (PAL), a well-established U.S. government affairs and defense consultancy.

This partnership is aimed at expanding IDE's presence and impact within the U.S. defense and aerospace markets. IDE-US builds upon IDE's decades-long reputation for delivering cutting-edge defense solutions to allied nations, including the U.S., Europe, and Israel.

The company is known for developing advanced technologies across a range of sectors, including:

- **Hybrid Electric Power Systems (HEPS)**
- **Tactical IP Communications**
- **Missile Electronics**
- **Surveillance Technologies**

Two of IDE's flagship systems will be the focus of the U.S. expansion:

- **HEPS (Hybrid Electric Power Systems):** These systems deliver next-generation battlefield energy by combining high-density, safe energy storage with intelligent power control and management, significantly improving operational energy efficiency in contested and remote environments.

- **WiSPRevo System:** A revolutionary voice communication technology that eliminates environmental and background noise, enabling clearer, more effective communication in high-noise combat and maritime conditions.

Through the partnership, IDE-US and PAL will jointly promote these technologies to enhance the operational effectiveness, survivability, and sustainability of modern military forces, while also reducing exposure to battlefield vulnerabilities. PAL will play a key role in providing strategic guidance, advocacy, and engagement within the U.S. defense sector.

This collaboration reflects a shared commitment to innovation, mission readiness, and equipping the warfighter with state-of-the-art capabilities.

By leveraging IDE's advanced R&D and engineering expertise, and PAL's market knowledge and U.S. defense relationships, the partnership is well-positioned to bring high-value solutions to American defense clients.

IDE-US views this cooperation as a major step in solidifying its presence in the U.S. and delivering advanced power and communication solutions tailored for current and future battlefield needs. Both companies express strong confidence in the partnership's potential to contribute meaningfully to U.S. and allied defense capabilities.

THEON Acquires Kappa Optronics, Expands Defense Industry Presence in Germany

THEON International Plc (THEON) has announced its acquisition of 100% of Kappa Optronics GmbH (KAPPA), a German-based specialist in aviation and land optronics, for an enterprise value of €75 million. This transaction marks THEON's fourth consecutive defense-sector investment in Germany, reinforcing its strategy to strengthen its presence across key European defense markets. The deal is financed through a combination of debt and proceeds from THEON's IPO.

Established in 1978 and headquartered in Göttingen, Germany, KAPPA is recognized for its strong R&D-driven, asset-light operational model focused on design, assembly, and quality assurance. The company is home to around 60 highly skilled engineers and employs roughly 200 people across Germany, the U.S., and Spain. Operating out of approximately 3,000 square meters, KAPPA has built a reputation for its technological expertise in platform-based products serving both defense mobility and autonomous systems.

In FY 2025, KAPPA is projected to surpass €37 million in revenue with an EBITDA of approximately €8 million. The acquisition is expected to contribute to THEON's financial performance with immediate accretive value, helping the group meet its growth and profitability targets. EBITDA for 2026 does not yet reflect the expected uplift from THEON's business development efforts, which are set to commence immediately after the transaction closes. The company anticipates achieving an EBIT margin in the mid-twenties in the near term—aligning with its corporate guidelines.

KAPPA's infrastructure is modern and well-capitalized, requiring no significant capital expenditure beyond what THEON has already factored into its broader guidance. Importantly, the current management team at KAPPA will remain in place and will be incentivized through performance-based compensation to drive further growth. The acquisition remains subject to customary regulatory approvals. PwC acted as financial and tax due diligence advisor for THEON, while Bird & Bird provided legal and transactional support.
Christian Hadjiminas, THEON's Founder and CEO, emphasized that the acquisition supports several of THEON's key strategic priorities. These include: strengthening its German footprint following previous investments in Harder Digital and Andres Industries; expanding into Spain—marking an initial entry into another NATO/EU country with future production opportunities; broadening its electro-optics product portfolio, especially for land and aerial platforms; achieving immediate financial accretiveness; and enhancing R&D capabilities by combining KAPPA's innovations with THEON's existing engineering team based in Athens.

Hadjiminas added that THEON anticipates meaningful synergies through shared R&D, accelerated product co-development, and knowledge exchange. He sees the deal as a crucial step in the company's broader plan to grow in platform-based systems through both organic development and targeted acquisitions.

Sebastian Vreemann, CEO of KAPPA, expressed enthusiasm about the partnership, noting that joining the THEON Group would significantly enhance KAPPA's access to markets in defense and aerospace, boost its R&D collaboration potential, and accelerate its overall growth. He also highlighted a strong cultural alignment between the two companies, which he believes will foster long-term value creation.

Looking ahead, THEON plans to release FY 2026 guidance by October, factoring in the impact of both organic growth and the recent acquisitions, as it actively pursues several large defense tenders expected to further shape the company's future trajectory.

© Photo Credit: Kappa Optronics GmbH

AAR KAPPA Enhanced Vision System, MRTT System components

KAPPA's QUADBOX DVE

KAPPA's scheme of System Composition for Tanks AAR

ALTUS-LSA

ALTUS-LSA was honored to participate in the Hellenic Defense Innovation Testing and Demonstration Days during the IMMEDIATE RESPONSE-25 (IR25) Tactical Exercise, part of DEFENDER EUROPE-25 (DE25), led by the US Army Europe-Africa Command.

Held in Xanthi, Greece, on June 3-4, 2025, it featured units from six allied nations, including the US, France, Spain, and Greece. During the exercise, the Hellenic Army UAV Operators Team showcased the ATLAS 204 UAV by ALTUS-LSA, executing tactical scenarios and Swarming Flight Formations (7 Systems Airborne).

Meanwhile, ALTUS-LSA Operations Team demonstrated M3NTOR, the company's proprietary C3 software, along with the tactical deployment of the latest ATLAS 204 iteration, the N22—successor to the existing model. Finally, it was a great opportunity to showcase the tactical capabilities of the Weaponized UAV KERVEROS, which attracted strong visitor interest, along with its dual-use applications in Military Logistics.

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IDE in the IMMEDIATE RESPONSE-25 (IR25) Exercise

IDE was selected to participate in the Hellenic Defense Innovation Testing and Demonstration Days, in the frame of the Tactical Exercise IMMEDIATE RESPONSE-25 (IR25), part of the DEFENDER EUROPE-25 (DE25) Exercise, which is organized and conducted by the US Army Europe-Africa Command (USAR). The IR25 Exercise took place at the Petrochori Exercise Area, in Xanthi, Greece, between June 3-4, 2025, with the participation of units and assets from six allied nations, including the US, France, Spain and Greece.

During the Exercise, IDE deployed the following **Hybrid Electric Power Systems**, the capabilities of which were demonstrated to the distinguished guests, including the Chargé d' Affaires of the US Embassy in Athens, Mrs Maria dG Olson and military officials of the participating Armed Forces:

- **HGT20K Tactical Hybrid Generator**, in "Silent Operation" to conceal the thermal trace, through its advanced Energy Storage System, and the exploitation of renewable energy sources to extend operational autonomy. The Hybrid Generator supported the equipment and systems of IDE and other participating companies.
- **GENAIRCON Silent Auxiliary Power System (SAPS)**, integrated to an upgraded "M113 Remote Vulcan" armored vehicle of MENGIA S.A., in conditions of thermal and acoustic traces concealment.

IDE actively supports the specific initiative of the Hellenic Army General Staff for the participation of the domestic Defense Industry, as well as any other similar actions, for the benefit of the Greek and allied Armed Forces.

GSOF Symposium Europe

7 – 9 October 2025 in Athens, Greece

We are proud to announce that GREEK DEFENCE NEWS **is a Media Partner of the GSOF Symposium Europe, taking place from 7–9 October 2025 in Athens, Greece!**

GSOF Symposium Europe is a conference and exhibition which brings international SOF stakeholders together to network, explore topical developments, and do business. The 9th iteration of GSOF Symposium Europe will be held on 7 – 9 OCT 2025 in Athens, Greece!

The event serves as a premier platform for showcasing evolving solutions, monitoring sector activities, and evaluating emerging trends in the special operations forces. It also provides opportunities to network within the global community and shape future capabilities and partnerships through technology discovery.

Greece's Defence & Security Landscape

This summary is based on a research brief developed by FiscalNote, offering an overview of Greece's security and defence relations, its alliance with the United States, and the role of the Hellenic Armed Forces. The full research brief can be found below.

Key Highlights:

- Greece is a strategic NATO ally of the U.S., with relations strengthened by recent updates to the Mutual Defence Cooperation Agreement (MDCA) in 2019 and 2021.
- The U.S.-Greece partnership centers on joint military exercises, access to critical infrastructure, and regional stability in the Eastern Mediterranean.
- Greece's geostrategic location supports swift U.S. deployments and aircraft carrier access, enhancing American influence in the region.
- Trilateral and multilateral cooperation with countries like Cyprus, Israel, Egypt, and Jordan reinforces Greece's regional security role.
- Greece is modernizing its military through procurement and tech transfer deals with the U.S., France, and Israel, and has consolidated its special operations under a new Special Warfare Command.

Hellenic Special Forces

Hellenic Special Forces refers to the special operation units of the Hellenic Armed Forces, which include the elite Zeta Amphibious Commando Squadron (Hellenic Army), the 31st Combat Search and Rescue Squadron (Hellenic Air Force), and the Underwater Demolition Command (Hellenic Navy). These special forces are supported by a wider command structure, the 13th Special Operations Command, and are known for their rigorous, multi-phase training and specialized equipment to handle various missions from rescue to sabotage.

Army Special Forces

- Zeta Amphibious Commando Squadron (Z' MAK): Special Forces unit located in Nea Peramos.
- Special Paratroopers Unit (ETA): Also located in Nea Peramos, a specialized unit focusing on airborne operations.

- Alpha, Gamma, Eta, Theta, and Iota Amphibious Commando Squadrons: Located on the islands of Rhodes, Chios, Lesbos, Samos, and Kos, respectively, providing regional special operations capabilities.

Air Force Special Forces

- 31st Combat Search and Rescue Squadron (31 ΜΕΕΔ): A Tier 1 unit responsible for combat search and rescue, airbase protection, and other high-risk support missions.
- Air Special Operations Unit (MAEE): A specialized air operations unit stationed at Pachi Airfield.

Navy Special Forces

The main unit of the Hellenic Navy's Special Forces is the Underwater Demolition Command (MYK), which conducts naval special operations, underwater reconnaissance, mine hunting, and explosive ordnance disposal.

MARTE – Main ARmoured Tank of Europe

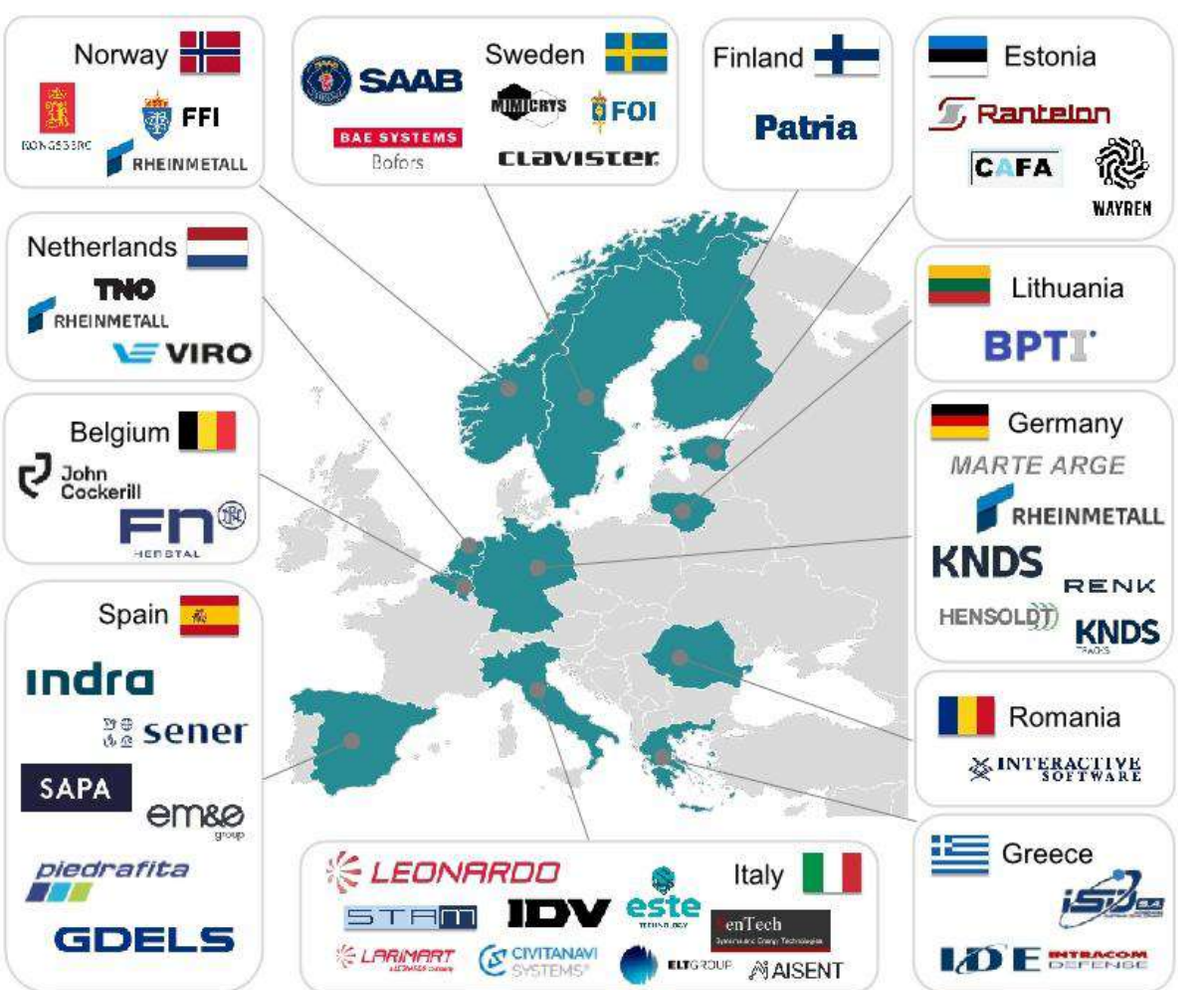
The MARTE project (Main ARmoured Tank of Europe) represents a major strategic leap forward for European defense collaboration, focusing on the research and design of a next-generation Main Battle Tank (MBT) system. Officially launched on December 1st, 2024, the initiative is led by *MARTE ARGE GbR*, a joint venture between Germany's KNDS Deutschland GmbH & Co.KG and Rheinmetall Landsysteme GmbH. This high-level project, co-funded by the European Defence Fund (EDF), has received a €20 million grant from the European Commission and brings together a diverse consortium of 51 entities across 12 countries (11 EU Member States plus Norway).

The overarching goal of MARTE is to develop a future-proof MBT system that meets evolving operational requirements and security threats, while also promoting Europe's technological sovereignty. The project reflects Europe's strategic intent to strengthen its defense capabilities in light of recent geopolitical tensions and shifting global dynamics. It also underscores a shared commitment to innovation and resilience in the face of emerging warfare challenges, including lessons learned from ongoing conflicts.

The MARTE consortium is notably inclusive, combining the expertise of major defense companies, research institutions, innovative SMEs, and mid-sized enterprises (MidCaps). The collaborative effort is supported by 11 national Ministries of Defense (MoDs)—from Germany, Belgium, Spain, Estonia, Finland, Greece, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Romania, and Sweden—highlighting strong political and financial backing. The German Ministry of Defense plays a leading role, positioning Germany as a central player in shaping Europe's defense future.

The project has been structured into five technical Work Packages, each managed by a key defense company that brings extensive experience and leadership in armored systems. These are:

- **KNDS Deutschland GmbH & Co.KG (Germany)**
- **Rheinmetall Landsysteme GmbH (Germany)**
- **Leonardo S.p.A. (Italy)**
- **Indra Sistemas S.A. (Spain)**
- **SAAB AB (Sweden)**



DEPICTION: ENTITIES INVOLVED IN THE MARTE PROJECT

APKWS®
laser-guidance kit

The APKWS® (Advanced Precision Kill Weapon System) is a laser-guidance kit developed by BAE Systems that converts 2.75”/70mm unguided rockets, such as the Hydra 70, into precision-guided munitions (PGMs). It has been combat-proven since 2008 and is the U.S. Government’s only program of record for this class of weapon.

Key Features & Benefits

Recent Upgrades

- Single Variant Block Upgrade includes:
  - 30% increase in effective strike range
  - Steeper attack angles for improved lethality
  - 90% reduction in Surface Danger Zone (SDZ) — improves training and urban operation safety

Platform Compatibility

APKWS is qualified on over 20 U.S. and allied platforms, including:

- Helicopters: AH-64 Apache, AH-1Z Viper, UH-60 Black Hawk, MH-60 Seahawk, AH-6M
- Fixed-Wing Aircraft: F-16, F/A-18, A-10, AV-8B, A-29 Super Tucano, OV-10 Bronco
- UAS and UCAVs
- Ground Launchers and Remote Weapon Stations

Production & Supply Chain

- Produced in Hudson, New Hampshire and Austin, Texas
- Annual production capacity: 25,000+ units
- Over 50,000 units delivered
- $100+ million invested in manufacturing and infrastructure
- Ability to surge production and deliver ahead of schedule

International Availability

- Available to U.S. Military (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps)
- Approved for export to allied nations through the Foreign Military Sales (FMS) program

Target Applications

- Designed to defeat:
  - Soft targets (e.g., personnel, light vehicles)
  - Lightly-armored threats
  - Low-flying drones and cruise missiles (C-UAS role)
- Ideal for:
  - Urban combat (MOUT)
  - Close air support
  - Precision strikes from ground platforms

System Compatibility

- Works with most U.S. military 2.75”/70mm rockets
- Optimized for Hydra 70 rockets with Mk 66 motors
- Compatible with M151 warheads, M423 fuses, and M260/261 launchers

Protected logistics truck: Rheinmetall MAN Military Vehicles presents new TGS-Mil Protected

At the RMMV Mobility Days, which were held for the first time this year, Rheinmetall MAN Military Vehicles (RMMV) presented its new TGS-Mil Protected armoured truck. The TGS-Mil Protected is based on the TG-generation of military trucks produced by RMMV in Vienna. The TGS-Mil Protected model on display is equipped with a protected cabin for two persons. The solution developed by Rheinmetall complies with current NATO standards and is available in 6x6 and 8x8 variants. Thanks to its modular design philosophy, the vehicle can be adapted to a wide range of mission profiles, including protection levels, communication systems, and specialised payload options. With the TGS-Mil Protected, RMMV is specifically targeting a broad and growing segment of the international market that demands protected logistical mobility combined with long-term cost efficiency. The development of this vehicle highlights RMMV's commitment to continuously adapt its militarized truck portfolio to evolving mission requirements and geopolitical developments.

With the TGS-Mil Protected, RMMV can now offer both protected and unprotected variants within the same modular system, providing flexibility, fleet harmonisation and reduced life-cycle costs for new and already existing customers alike. The TGS-Mil Protected is powered by a MAN D2676 six-cylinder diesel engine with up to 382 kW/520 hp and up to 2,650 Nm of torque.

The engine complies with Euro II, V and VIe-standards and is compatible with NATO fuel F34. The drive and chassis systems are based on proven components from the civilian sector, which simplifies maintenance and worldwide service. The all-wheel drive ensures excellent off-road capabilities. The RMMV Mobility Days 2025 were held under the motto 'Innovation in Motion'. Around 120 participants from 22 countries gathered in Vienna for the event. They received information about RMMV's current products and activities. The programme included a factory tour at the long-standing production facility in Vienna-Liesing which has recently been upgraded with a state-of the-art logistics system and digitised manufacturing processes. In future, around 4,000 HX and TG vehicles can be produced here each year to meet growing global demand. RMMV also demonstrated the versatility and off-road capabilities of its vehicle families (HX and TG) on an off-road site near Vienna. In addition, future technologies such as tele-operated driving and autonomous mobility were also part of the presentation. Rheinmetall MAN Military Vehicles (RMMV) is the competence centre for professional military and militarised logistics trucks within the Rheinmetall Vehicle Systems Division.

Rheinmetall and Lockheed Martin Successfully Fire GMARS Launcher for the First Time

- **Rheinmetall and Lockheed Martin successfully conducted the first live fire of the GMARS launcher**
- **Capability to launch two GMLRS rockets demonstrated**
- **Significant Milestone in the GMARS program**
- **European-built highly mobile, survivable and versatile long-range precision fires capability**

White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico – Rheinmetall and Lockheed Martin, partners in the Global Mobile Artillery Rocket System (GMARS) program, successfully conducted the first live fire of the GMARS launcher, demonstrating its capability to launch GMLRS rockets. These are the same munitions used by Germany and allied nations across the globe, reinforcing interoperability and supporting joint operations.

The live fire demonstration, held at White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico, marked a significant milestone in the GMARS development program, which aims to provide military customers with a European-built highly mobile, survivable and versatile long-range precision fires capability. The launcher can be armed with an enhanced loadout of two ATACMS, 4 PrSM, 12 GMLRS Standard Range or 12 Extended Range GMLRS missiles.

"We are thrilled to have achieved this major milestone in the GMARS program," said Dr. Björn Bernhard, CEO Rheinmetall Vehicle Systems Europe. "The successful live fire showcases the system's precision and reliability, and we are confident that GMARS will meet the evolving needs of our customers."

The GMARS launcher, based on the Rheinmetall HX vehicle series, offers a high degree of interoperability and interchangeability with fielded M270A2 and HIMARS launchers, making it an ideal solution for military forces operating in Europe. The system's ability to launch current and future state-of-the-art long-range and extended-long-range rocket fire missions provides a significant advantage on the modern battle

"Lockheed Martin is committed to delivering innovative solutions that meet the evolving needs of our customers," said Paula Hartley, vice president and general manager of Tactical Missiles at Lockheed Martin. "The GMARS program is a prime example of this commitment, and we are pleased to have successfully demonstrated its capability in this live fire exercise. With this milestone accomplished, we are poised to rapidly qualify and bring this capability to market."

The GMARS program is a result of the partnership between Rheinmetall and Lockheed Martin, which combines their individual strengths to provide a European-centric launcher that maximizes combat-proven HIMARS and M270 components. GMARS offers the same ammunition capacity and firepower as M270 on the world's leading tactical truck with the ability to integrate platforms and ammunition from allied nations.

LITENING™: The World's Most Widely Used Advanced Targeting Pod

LITENING is a combat-proven, airborne multispectral targeting and navigation pod designed to meet the complex demands of modern warfare. It is fully operational in both day and night conditions and performs effectively under adverse weather. This versatility makes LITENING one of the most widely-used targeting systems in the world, adopted by over 30 air forces and integrated into 26 different types of combat aircraft.

The pod incorporates a range of advanced sensors that provide high-resolution imagery, improving target identification, recognition range, and image quality. These capabilities enhance mission success and significantly reduce the risk of collateral damage. Real-time imaging and tracking also reduce pilot workload by streamlining the sensor-to-shooter cycle and increasing situational awareness in dynamic operational environments. LITENING supports a wide array of missions, including precision strike, intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (NTISR), as well as battle damage assessment (BDA).

LITENING-5, the latest generation of the system, supports electro-optical tracking of multiple stationary and moving targets, both on the ground and in the air. Its open architecture and internal space allow for future upgrades, such as synthetic aperture radar (SAR), electronic intelligence (ELINT), and other advanced capabilities. The pod's flexibility enables modern strike fighters to perform a broad range of missions without requiring multiple systems.
With more than 2.2 million flight hours logged—over two-thirds in contingency operations, the LITENING pod has a proven track record of reliability and effectiveness. Its excellent availability rate makes it a trusted asset in global operations. The system's wide-ranging features also include off-stand targeting capabilities, allowing aircrews to engage from safe distances while maintaining targeting accuracy.

LITENING is integrated on numerous aircraft platforms, including the F-16, F-15, F/A-18, F-5, A-10, AV-8B, B-52, B-10, Mirage 2000, Tornado, Jaguar, AMX, LCA, Gripen, MiG-21, MiG-27, Typhoon, KC-390, M-346, and others. It is used by the U.S. Air Force (USAF), Air National Guard (ANG), U.S. Marine Corps, and air forces in Italy, Israel, the Netherlands, Australia, UK, Denmark, Greece, Brazil, Thailand, India, Spain, Portugal, Chile, Germany, Sweden, Finland, Czech Republic, Kazakhstan, Hungary, Colombia, and more.

Technically, the pod includes FLIR, MWIR, SWIR, and HD color sensors. It measures approximately 220 cm (87 inches) in length, 40.6 cm (16 inches) in diameter, and weighs about 220 kg (480 lbs), with some specifications varying based on sensor configurations. With its proven combat record, cutting-edge sensor suite, and ability to evolve through modular upgrades, LITENING continues to set the benchmark for airborne targeting pods. Its combination of performance, adaptability, and wide adoption ensures its role as a critical force multiplier in current and future air combat operations.

HELD UNDER THE PATRONAGE OF HIS EXCELLENCY, PRESIDENT ABDEL FATTAH EL-SISI
THE PRESIDENT OF THE ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT,
THE SUPREME COMMANDER OF THE EGYPTIAN ARMED FORCES

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