GREEK DEFENCE NEWS DAILY

DEFEA 2025 SHOW DAILY

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DAY 2

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

BlueWhale ASW barrier – ensuring maritime security

The ELI-3325 BlueWhale, equipped with ATLAS Elektronik passive and bi-static towed array sonar, has successfully detected submarines in operational exercises across diverse maritime environments, including the Atlantic, Indian, Mediterranean, and Baltic Seas.
BlueWhale is a large, high-endurance, uncrewed underwater vehicle engineered for stealth and autonomous operation. Further mission capabilities include ISR, seabed warfare, MCM, ACINT, SIGINT, and forward scouting for special forces, including real-time video support.

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Hellenic Navy Modernization

The Hellenic Navy (HN) is a mid-sized naval force currently operating 13 frigates, 41 patrol and coastal combatants, 10 diesel-electric submarines, three mine countermeasures vessels, and a variety of additional vessels, including landing craft and logistics/support ships. However, the Navy's main surface fleet will require significant renewal over the next decade. As such, Greek naval procurement is focused on modernizing the HN fleet by 2032 through a combination of upgrading existing platforms and acquiring new ships, both domestically and from abroad.

The naval staff has outlined a clear modernization roadmap through 2030, which has been endorsed by Greece's political leadership. Key priorities include maintaining the operational readiness of the existing fleet, acquiring three or four FDI frigates, negotiating the purchase of two Bergamini-class frigates, modernizing the MEKO-class frigates and submarines, and selecting the next-generation underwater combat platform. The new Long-Term Defense Armament Planning is being executed through programs led by the Hellenic Navy General Staff (HNGS), including the following key projects:

Acquisition of a Fourth FDI Frigate
Greece signed an agreement with Naval Group in September 2021 to procure three FDI frigates, with an option for a fourth. To date, two frigates have been launched—on 28 September 2023 and 19 September 2024—with the third scheduled for launch in June 2025.

The first two ships, *Kimon* and *Nearchos*, are expected to be commissioned in late 2025, while the third, *Formion*, is scheduled for early 2026. The Greek Ministry of National Defence (MND) has confirmed its intention to exercise the option for the fourth vessel, and negotiations are reportedly ongoing. During the launch ceremony of *Nearchos* in September 2024, Defence Minister Nikos Dendias announced that procedures had begun to acquire the fourth FDI frigate.

Potential Acquisition of Bergamini-Class Frigates
The Hellenic Navy's modernization efforts are taking place against the backdrop of increasing geopolitical tensions in the Eastern Mediterranean. As part of Italy's broader fleet renewal, Rome has offered Greece two FREMM-class frigates—the *Carlo Bergamini (F 590)* and *Virginio Fasan (F 591)*—which will become available after 2028. These vessels are to be replaced in the Italian fleet by the newer FREMM EVO units, expected to enter service between 2029 and 2030. The Italian offer aligns with Greece's efforts to bridge capability gaps in its surface combatant fleet.

Constellation-Class Frigates
Greece is considering participation in the U.S. Navy's Constellation-class (FFG-62) frigate program. Since 2024, Defence Minister Nikos Dendias has confirmed U.S. acceptance, in principle, of Greece's interest in co-designing and co-producing up to seven of these advanced frigates in Greek shipyards. According to Dendias, this would allow Greece to join the program from the design phase—a major milestone for the Greek Navy and its domestic shipbuilding industry. The Constellation-class is a multi-mission guided-missile frigate based on the Italian-French FREMM design, which is already in service with the French, Italian, and Egyptian navies. The U.S. Navy selected a FREMM variant in 2020 for a planned total of 20 ships. As of FY2024, six ships have been procured, with $1.17 billion requested in FY2025 for the seventh. The vessels are being built by Fincantieri/Marinette Marine under a contract covering up to ten ships.

Modernization of MEKO Frigates
Modernization of the Hellenic Navy's four MEKO-class frigates remains a high priority. These upgrades are essential to maintaining combat readiness until the new generation of surface combatants is fully operational.

Upgrade of Super Vita-Class Missile Boats
In addition to major surface combatants, the HN is also working to upgrade its fleet of Super Vita-class missile boats to extend their operational lifespan and maintain regional deterrence capabilities.

European Patrol Corvette (EPC) Program
Another significant initiative is the potential acquisition of three new corvettes, with the possibility of a fourth. The Navy is currently defining its operational requirements based on lessons from regional conflicts and plans for at least two of the corvettes to be built in Greece. This effort is part of Greece's participation in the EU's Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO) project for the development of a European Patrol Corvette (EPC).

Submarine Modernization and Acquisition
The Hellenic Navy also prioritizes strengthening its submarine fleet. This includes upgrading its four Papanikolis-class submarines, based on the German Type 214 design, and the modernization of *Okeanos (S-118)*, a Poseidon-class submarine based on the German Type 209. Plans are also underway to build two new submarines, with an option for two additional units, ensuring future underwater superiority in the region.

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RBS15 Mk3 Anti-Ship and Coastal Defence System

Current conflicts demonstrate the fundamental importance and value of anti-ship missiles with the ability to achieve mission success across the entire engagement spectrum. RBS15 will dominate the war zone in its traditional use as armament for ships and as land-based coastal defence systems. The state-of-the-art RBS15 Mk3 missile system meets the demanding requirements of today's and future naval scenarios for a long-range anti-ship cruise missile with deep strike land attack capability.

RBS15 Mk3 is a jointly developed version of the proven predecessor Saab RBS15 Mk2 used in the Swedish Navy and other naval forces. With the heavy anti-ship missile RBS15 Mk3, Diehl Defence delivers the main weapon for the German Navy's corvettes of the "Braunschweig" class (K130) in cooperation with the Swedish partner Saab Dynamics.

RBS15 Mk3 is a highly effective and maneuverable precision weapon with active radar seeker head, which is extremely jam resistant against electronic countermeasures and assertive even in GPS-denied areas. The all-weather capable, fire-and-forget anti-ship missile is also able to successfully engage both sea and land targets at a distance of more than 200 km. For this purpose, a combination of inertial and GPS-based navigation is used for the free flight. The radar seeker is mainly activated for the target location during terminal homing.

The trajectory can be configured flexibly (evasive maneuver and attack repetition during the terminal phase) via programmable way points and elaborated altitude

regulation (sea-skimming). Low radar and infrared signature make the detection more difficult for the enemy. On account of its capabilities, the RBS15 Mk3 disposes of a high penetration capability against air defence. The target engagement is based on a modern operational missile engagement planning system with relevant data bases. With possible multi-missile attacks the probability of success can be increased even more.

In addition to the ship-based version, RBS15 Mk3 can also be launched from a wide range of trucks according to specific customer requirements, so that a very effective coastal defence can be established quickly and easily. Since the missile can engage all ships and suitable land targets, user nations benefit from the very high system flexibility with regard to the launch platform as well as the target types (multi-platform and multi-target coordinated engagements). This flexibility makes the RBS15 Coastal Defence system the perfect match for parallel dominance in blue waters, on land and in rugged littoral waters.

A standard RBS15 Mk3 Coastal Defence battery consists of 2 to 4 launch vehicles which can operate completely stand alone or can be supported by a mobile command post, an ammunition supply and "in field" repair capability – all of which are available "off-the-shelf" and currently in series production.

The modular, highly mobile and extendable RBS15 Mk3 Coastal Defence system provides maximum operational flexibility to different applications and can be tailored to the customer's requirements. The system can be integrated into higher level command and control systems. Its low operational and logistics costs, as well as very low personnel requirements, are further benefits of the RBS15 Mk3 Coastal Defence System. Currently the armed forces of 8 user nations worldwide rely on the RBS15 missile family: Sweden, Germany, Poland, Finland, Algeria, Thailand, Croatia and Bulgaria. RBS15 is designed to give you the edge to stay ahead in increasingly complex conflict scenarios – it will search, find and destroy the designated targets.

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BlueWhale™ - A True Submarine Force Multiplier

Seafaring nations face unique challenges in ensuring the safety, security and sovereignty of their nautical frontiers. Even in times of tranquility they must guard against threats such as terrorism, smuggling, illegal fishing, natural resources theft, and uncontrolled mass immigration. And when conflict does arise, these nations must have anti-submarine and anti-surface vessel warfare capabilities to defend against naval incursion or attack. Even before the outbreak of open hostilities, it is imperative that they be able to detect and track hostile naval forces engaged in intelligence gathering and other covert activities.

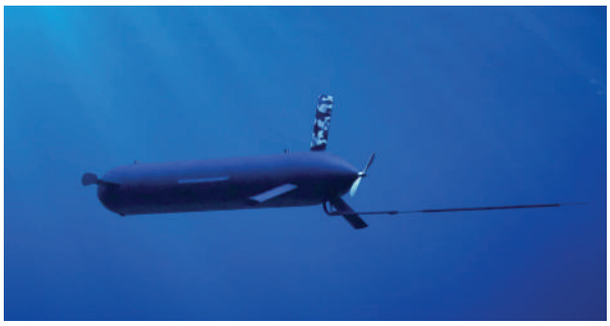
To contend with this multitude of threats, organizations tasked with maritime security employ maritime patrol aircraft, coastal radars, naval patrol vessels, submarines and a range of surface and subsurface sensors; but resources are always challenged given the tremendous scope of the endeavor. Moreover, few effective solutions are available to detect and track hostile submarines operating at depth.

In response, IAI's innovative systems and sensors subsidiary, IAI ELTA, developed BlueWhale™, a unique system with onboard capabilities beyond anything seen before on an uncrewed underwater asset. BlueWhale™ is a stealthy, long-endurance, large displacement uncrewed underwater vehicle (LDUUV) designed to complement conventional submarines and naval forces with autonomous capabilities.

With its modular design and array of available sensors, BlueWhale™ can be configured for a wide range of critical missions: Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW); Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR); SEABED warfare; Mine Counter Measures (MCM); Acoustic Intelligence (ACINT); Forward SIGINT scout for Special forces, including landing missions; Forward SIGINT scout for naval task force; and piracy, terrorism and illegal immigration detection.

Special attention has been paid to BlueWhale's ASW capability. IAI teamed with ATLAS ELEKTRONIK, a world leader in the underwater domain, to integrate the company's Towed Array Sonar (TAS) with BlueWhale™. The synergy between these systems has produced a truly "game changing" solution.

Using Bi-static and Multi-static external active sonar sources, the system delivers the revolutionary ability to extend a submarine barrier over areas that were previously impossible to monitor in an efficient way. Operating undetected with a passive array to a dive depth of 300 meters, BlueWhale™ creates a true dilemma for enemy submarine forces.



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The sub-surface sensor suite also includes active and passive Flank Array Sonar (FAS) for the detection of surface vessels and submarines, Synthetic Aperture Sonar (SAS) for mine detection and high-resolution sea bottom mapping, and magnetic sensors for mine detection and verification.

On top, BlueWhale™ features a patented, collapsible mast configured with advanced surface payloads, including a staring radar, electro-optics/IR, R-ESM, and low signature Broad Band SATCOM for real-time data exchange.

Blue Whale's capabilities were recently demonstrated to great effect by the German Navy within the framework of its Operation OPEX program, geared at introducing innovation to address current and future threats. For two weeks in November 2024, Blue Whale underwent intensive sea trials in the "real world" laboratory of the Baltic. The testing focused on reconnaissance and sonar capabilities, employing a comprehensive and empirical methodology to verify the system's performance and reliability. The sonar and mast mounted sensors provided a clear, accurate picture of long-range targets, demonstrating ISR capabilities comparable to those of conventional submarines but without endangering operators.

Regarding the trials, the Inspector General of the German Navy, Jan Christian Kaack, recently stated at the Navy Talks in Berlin that Blue Whale "…exceeded our expectations." He added "And with two or three of these models, I could seal everything off Fehmarn".

BlueWhale™ is managed via an efficient Command & Control (C2) system, facilitating a continuous Situation Awareness Picture, Call-to-Action commands, events blogger, remote operation and more. A user-friendly Human-Machine Interface (HMI) enables effective operation by a small team.

With acquisition and operating costs far lower than conventional systems, and the ability to perform critical missions with complete autonomy, proven over 2,000 diving hours, BlueWhale™ is a true force multiplier that empowers maritime nations to secure the integrity of their territorial waters.

Come meet our naval experts at DEFEA 2025 – Hall 2 Booth C2 or contact us at market@elta.co.il

COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS MAKE THE DIFFERENCE!

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

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ARM-28 Anti-Drone System, a ZU-23-2 upgrade kit

The ARM-28 anti-drone system is upgraded to the legacy 23mm ZU-23-2 anti-aircraft twin-barrelled autocannon. The modernization kit for the gun, was made by AREX, a WB GROUP's company. The ARM-28 upgrade utilizes the concept of modules, including a DJ-25 jammer, integrated with the original ZU-23-2 autocannon. Modularity allows for quick replacement of elements in field conditions.

The high-intensity conflict in Europe has made NATO countries raise awareness of the dangers associated with threats by small air systems. This category includes cruise missiles, and one-way drones. Effective countering can still be carried out by the anti-aircraft artillery.

The threat has sparked great interest in improving equipment currently in use. Combat systems are usually operated for several decades and can be modified or modernized during this time. Improving the characteristics enables further use of older designs and raises their effectiveness on the modern battlefield.

AREX is the competence center of the WB GROUP in the field of electromechanical equipment used in various combat systems. The offer of the company includes the modernization of 23 mm ZU-23-2 anti-aircraft autocannon to the ARM-28 standard.

Designers were tasked with adapting the legacy ZU-23-2 anti-aircraft system to the modern requirements of the battlefield, including engaging small flying objects such as small unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs). The rapid-firing gun can also be successfully used in operations against ground and naval targets, and thanks to sub-caliber anti-tank ammunition, it can also combat lighter armored targets.

After modernization the ZU-23-2 autocannon gains new features. Thanks to controlled digitally electric drives with emergency manual drive it is possible to achieve both precise guidance and high-speed gun movement. The upgrade package allows for a reduction in the number of people operating the gun.

Target guidance can be manual, semi-automatic or automatic using an external fire control system (FCS). The operator panel also allows for the introduction of prohibited (no-shooting) zones within the fire system (in azimuth and elevation), improving the safety of own troops.

The ARM-28 upgrade kit works with a modern CKE-1T optoelectronic sight that allow shooting with both legacy 23mm ammunition OFZ/OFZT, and with the modern subcalibre ammunition APDS-T. The control panel enables programming of no-shooting zones. The ARM-28 features a modular design, that offers significant advantage by allowing easy and rapid integration of new hardware functional blocks, and quick field repair.

DJ-25 jammer is a dedicated part of ARM-28 upgrade kit for jamming and neutralizing Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs). It includes a high-power signal generator (up to 52dBm) and powerful helical antennas with a gain of 21-28dBi. The system provides the ability to instantly and completely cut off the UAV from the operator by jamming the 2.4 and 5.8GHz frequency and geolocation systems in GPS, Galileo and GLONASS systems.

Optional, the DJ-25 system can interfere with GSM signals in the 850-900MHz band, ensuring interfering of UAVs working in these frequencies, as well as neutralization of Improvised Explosive Devices working based partly on mobile network.

The ARM-28 modernization package was selected by NATO user in both land and naval versions. The first contract was signed in 2021. Deliveries were completed on time, allowing the user to dramatically increase anti-aircraft capabilities. The ARM-28 with DJ-25 jamming system was already tested and ordered by a NATO user.

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Responsible use of artificial intelligence in military environments

Sensor solution provider HENSOLDT and the Fraunhofer Institute of Optronics, System Technologies and Image Exploitation IOSB have jointly published a new study on the ethical responsibility for the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in military environments.

The study, entitled “Ethical Considerations for the Military Use of Artificial Intelligence in Visual Reconnaissance”, discusses ethical issues and principles that must be considered when using AI in military scenarios. A particular focus is on the so-called FATE guidelines, which include fairness, accountability, transparency and ethics. These established guidelines are intended to ensure that AI-supported systems are used transparently, fairly and responsibly in the military sector.

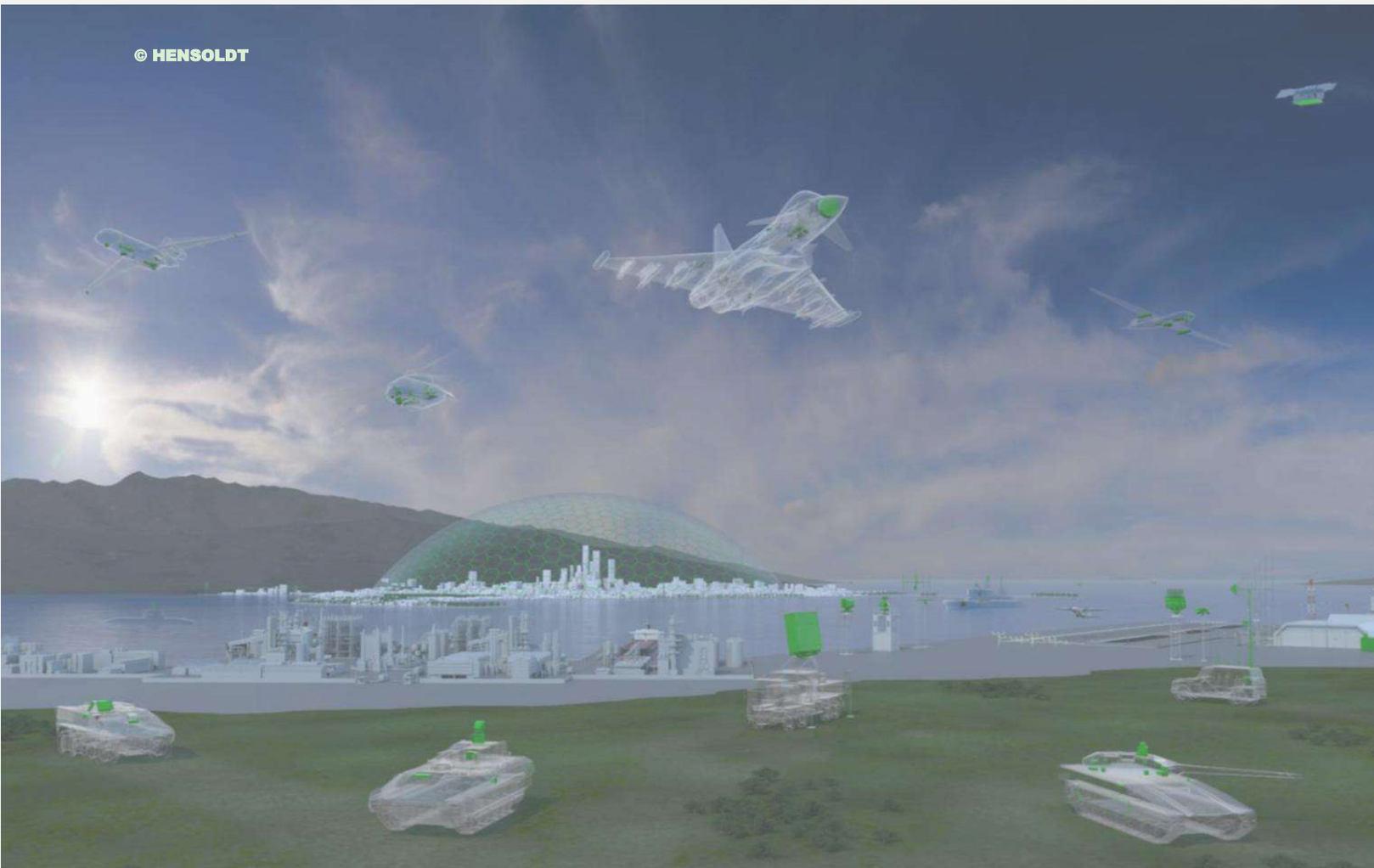
One contribution of the study is to incorporate European and German values into the discussion of ethical principles for military AI applications. In addition to established principles such as traceability, responsibility and reliability, these also include principles such as proportionality and manageability.

The ethical principles are examined in three realistic use cases from the air, land and sea. Methods such as automated sensor data analysis and eXplainable AI (XAI) are used to put the scenarios in the direct context of HENSOLDT's product portfolio and technical feasibility.

The study concludes that ethical principles can be taken into account when using AI in a military environment. This applies, for example, to technologies such as XAI or human-machine interfaces based on Large Language Models (LLMs). Ultimately, responsibility for a decision remains with the human being who retains control over the AI.

“Our research represents an important step in the discussion on how to use artificial intelligence responsibly in the complex and dynamic landscape of military scenarios,” said Dr Michael Teutsch, AI Strategist & Lead at HENSOLDT. “It shows how we as a company can help to align technological advances with ethical standards, striking a balance between the benefits of AI and compliance with moral and legal requirements.”

According to the study the relevance of harnessing AI in defence is increasing more and more. The dedicated ethical discussion, however, is still coming short in such examinations to analyse specific applications like in the fielding for armed forces . The analysis so far is mainly based on the civilian approach in defining ethical AI and giving guidelines for these use cases. AI systems for defence applications are subject to the same principles as civilian ones with a special focus on certain defence-related aspects. In practice, e.g., the United States Department of Defence (DoD) officially adopted ethical principles for AI in 2020 within a” Responsible Artificial Intelligence Strategy and Implementation Pathway”. A similar approach is provided by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).



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AT-7000 Series

Multifunctional Communications & SIGINT Antenna System

The AT-7000 Series Multifunctional Communications & SIGINT Antenna System for submarines was developed to meet both the multifunctional communications and signal intelligence requirements to detect and evaluate communicative (COMINT) and non-communicative (ELINT) signals. The AT-7000 series antenna has the same form and fit factors as its predecessor, the AT-4000 Series.

The emerging communication technologies in the civilian sector provide an opportunity for the naval industry to expand military communication needs and new combat requirements as they are available in the market, technically mature and affordable. While communication technologies such as VHF, UHF, etc. remain an essential part of naval military communication, other technologies such as 2G, 4G, 5G, WLAN, etc. can expand the scope of naval military communication services.

Certain naval communication systems already include the tactical private 4G LTE communication network to achieve sufficient throughput for reliable data collection in real time and over long distances (1). The attractiveness and high efficiency of 5G technology make it necessary to consider the implementation of civilian standards in the military domain. Since the direct use of civilian standards in military systems cannot simply be adopted due to various premises, the civilian 5G standard is currently being evaluated for its usability in military applications (2). In addition, 5G NTN (Non-Terrestrial Networks) is also being developed as a future communication technology. 2G technology can be retained as a backup solution for military naval communication systems. WLAN technology can be used to set up tactical private ad hoc networks (3).

In addition to the need for mobile communications, navies around the world also need signal intelligence systems to combat all modern threats, e.g. to detect and neutralize drones.

To enable all these functions, navies around the world prefer a powerful, compact all-in-one multifunction and signal intelligence antenna and antenna subsystems, especially for submarines, due to limited space.

The AT-4000 multifunctional communications antenna system for submarines is one of the best-selling antennas that Aeromaritime Systembau GmbH has supplied to various navies around the world over the last 40 years. It includes VLF/HF-Rx, VHF, UHF, IFF, Link-16 and L-Band SatCom functionalities. The AT-4000 antenna system was developed as a communications antenna and is not intended for signal intelligence. As a consequence, a new antenna system has been developed that is suitable for both the signal intelligence and military naval communications, including the communication technologies mentioned above.

The AT-7000 series antenna system consists of the antenna itself, a communication interface (COM-IF), a SIGINT interface (SIGINT-IF) module that can be connected to most third-party signal analyzers & recording systems, and the Aeromaritime's Radio Frequency Distribution Unit RFDU. As a multifunctional communications antenna, the AT-7000 covers VHF-LoS, UHF-LoS, IFF, Link-16 and L-band services, with Inmarsat-C and Iridium being the most popular L-band services. In addition, the AT-7000 also provides 2G, 4G and 5G cellular- and WLAN services. It has receive-only functionality for VLF and HF bands.

In signal intelligence mode, the AT-7000 captures electromagnetic signals from its environment in the range from 10 kHz to 6 GHz and evaluates the captured signals in the signal analyzer and recording system after passing through various interfaces.

The communications interface (COM-IF) module serves as an interface between the AT-7000 antenna and various communication radio devices. The main functions of the COM-IF include supplying the electronic components in the COM-IF itself and the antenna with DC power and control signals, switching between different communication paths, and filtering. The COM-IF also provides an interface to the signal intelligence interface (SIGINT-IF) module which performs filtering and multiplexing of signals received via various antenna elements and provides an interface to the signal analyzer and recorder system.

The Radio Frequency Distribution Unit (RFDU) is an optional component of the AT-7000 antenna system. If a communication system contains more than one VHF LoS, UHF LoS and GPS antenna, these multiple antennas can be easily and efficiently connected to the corresponding radios using the RFDU unit.

The Signal Analyzer & Recorder system evaluates the signals detected by the AT-7000 antenna. Although the Signal Analyzer & Recorder system is a central component of the signal evaluation, it is not offered by Aeromaritime Systembau GmbH. There are several signal analyzer & recorder systems on the market and the AT-7000 antenna system is compatible with most of them.

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Fincantieri and thyssenkrupp Marine Systems partner for Philippines submarines project

Strategic alliance delivers its proposal for cutting-edge U212 NFS submarines to boost the Philippine Navy's capabilities, strengthen regional defense, and foster long-term industrial cooperation.

Fincantieri and thyssenkrupp Marine Systems have signed an Industrial Cooperation Agreement as part of a broader strategic partnership to provide the Philippine's Navy with advanced submarine capabilities solutions.

As part of the Horizon III military modernization initiative, the Philippine Navy aims to enhance its archipelagic defense by acquiring cutting-edge weapon systems. In particular, the introduction of submarines would be a game-changer in securing territorial waters, especially in the South China Sea.

The collaboration between thyssenkrupp Marine Systems and Fincantieri brings together their extensive expertise and cutting-edge technologies to deliver the most efficient and competitive solution for the U212 NFS class submarines, which Fincantieri is currently building for the Italian Navy at its shipyards in Italy. The partnership also aims to strengthen local infrastructure and expand the operational capabilities of the Philippine Navy's fleet.

The cooperation between the Italian and German Navies on the U212A submarines dates back to 1996. Building on their longstanding partnership, Fincantieri and thyssenkrupp Marine Systems extended their cooperation to include potential joint export projects.

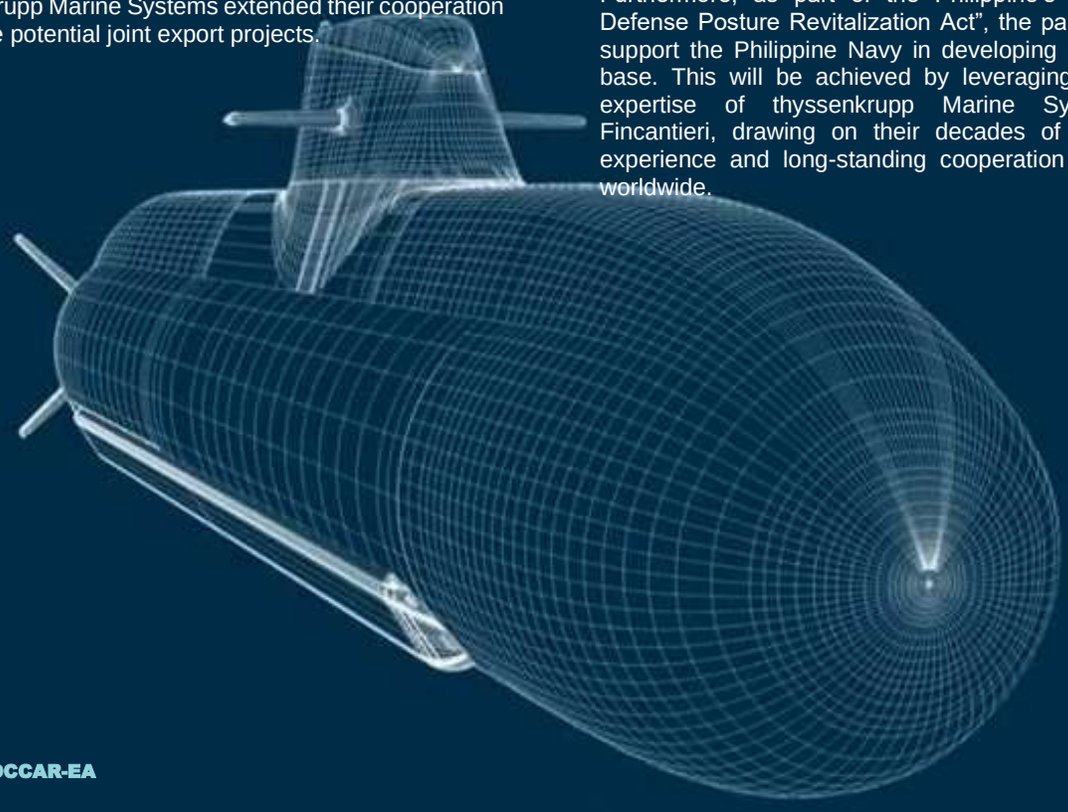
Oliver Burkhard, CEO of thyssenkrupp Marine Systems, stated: "Building on our successful cooperation within the Italian submarine program, this Industrial Cooperation Agreement provides an excellent foundation for further joint projects in the underwater domain."

The U212 NFS is an evolution of the HDW Class U212A submarine, featuring low acoustic, magnetic, and visual signature characteristics and making it exceptionally stealthy. It meets the highest quality standards and the most stringent rules and requirements, with thyssenkrupp Marine Systems supplying essential key technologies and components. The Philippine Navy would gain a significant strategic advantage through the Air Independent Propulsion (AIP) technology, first introduced on the U212A, and now integrated into the U212 NFS. Additionally, the use of Amanox non-magnetic steel, combined with other key technical features and new stealth technology, makes the U212 NFS virtually undetectable.

Pierroberto Folgiero, CEO and Managing Director of Fincantieri, added:"With decades of experience in submarine construction, Fincantieri has developed a solid expertise in delivering high-performance naval solutions. This cooperation is a key milestone in promoting our international export strategy, leveraging the latest cutting-edge Italian and German technologies and quality."

A distinguishing factor of the U212 NFS offering is the operational support provided by the Italian Navy, ensuring the Philippine Navy benefits from an unparalleled level of training, doctrine, and logistics. The package also includes specialized industrial and operational training, allowing the Philippine Navy to rapidly build a well-structured and highly skilled submarine crew.

Furthermore, as part of the Philippine's "Self-Reliant Defense Posture Revitalization Act", the partnership will support the Philippine Navy in developing a new naval base. This will be achieved by leveraging the design expertise of thyssenkrupp Marine Systems and Fincantieri, drawing on their decades of shipbuilding experience and long-standing cooperation with navies worldwide.



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The unmanned 40 CTA turret integrates a generic vetronic architecture which allows an unparalleled modularity resulting in outstanding operational capabilities both in urban areas and open battlefields. Its feeding system based on a carousel and the addition of pods featuring the latest generation of antitank missiles ensure the immediate availability of the right ammunition to defeat any target.

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DAY 2

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Greece to acquire 16 EXOCET MM40 Block 3C anti-ship missiles

On April 14, 2025, Greece and France signed a major defense agreement for the procurement of 16 EXOCET MM40 Block 3C anti-ship missiles. The contract was signed in Athens by Major General Ioannis Mpouras, Director General of GDDIA, and Annie Kristina Ramon of MBDA, in the presence of Greek and French Defence Ministers, Nikos Dendias and Sébastien Lecornu. The deal strengthens the strategic defense partnership between the two countries and supports ongoing naval modernization in the Eastern Mediterranean.

The new missiles are destined for the final two Roussen-class fast attack craft, HS Karathanasis (P78) and HS Vlachakos (P79). These vessels currently use older EXOCET variants, and this upgrade significantly boosts their combat capabilities. The EXOCET Block 3C features an extended range of over 250 km, advanced J-band coherent seeker, and enhanced resistance to electronic countermeasures, making it one of the most capable sea-skimming missiles in service today.

The Valued at €33 million agreement includes Follow-On Support (FOS) services, ensuring long-term operational readiness.

Specifications

- Weight 530kg
- Length 4.7m
- Diameter 350mm
- Mission Deep Strike
- Platforms multi-naval platforms

Key Features

- Combat proven
- Long range maritime strike capability
- Compatible with existing Exocet MM40 installation
- All-weather, 24/7, all Electronic Warfare environments
- Multi-target
- Blue and brown waters capability
- Land attack capability
- Quick reaction time
- Ensure high penetration against the most strongly defended surface targets
- Provides the operator with a high degree of tactical flexibility

Latest generation ship-borne variant within the EXOCET family, the EXOCET MM40 BLOCK 3c, is an all-weather conditions maritime superiority missile system with land attack capability.

EXOCET MM40 BLOCK 3c provides a very long-range capability, even in adverse weather conditions and in highly challenging Electronic Warfare environment. EXOCET MM40 BLOCK 3c allows operational flexibility thanks to the programming of 3D waypoints, optimized trajectories and simultaneous terminal attacks of multiple missiles. Its launching system and mission planning/firing installation is interoperable with current MM40 BLOCK 3 version, thus enabling a smooth transition. EXOCET MM40 BLOCK 3c can also be associated with the new generation of firing unit offering additional operational capabilities.

EXOCET MM40 BLOCK 3c is compatible with MM40 BLOCK 3 logistics support assets already in service. The EXOCET MM40 BLOCK 3c shipset is designed for installation on a wide range of naval platforms.

Digitalized architecture improves maintainability and especially the failure of localization. This new generation benefits also from extended preventive maintenance periodicity allowing optimized stockpile management.

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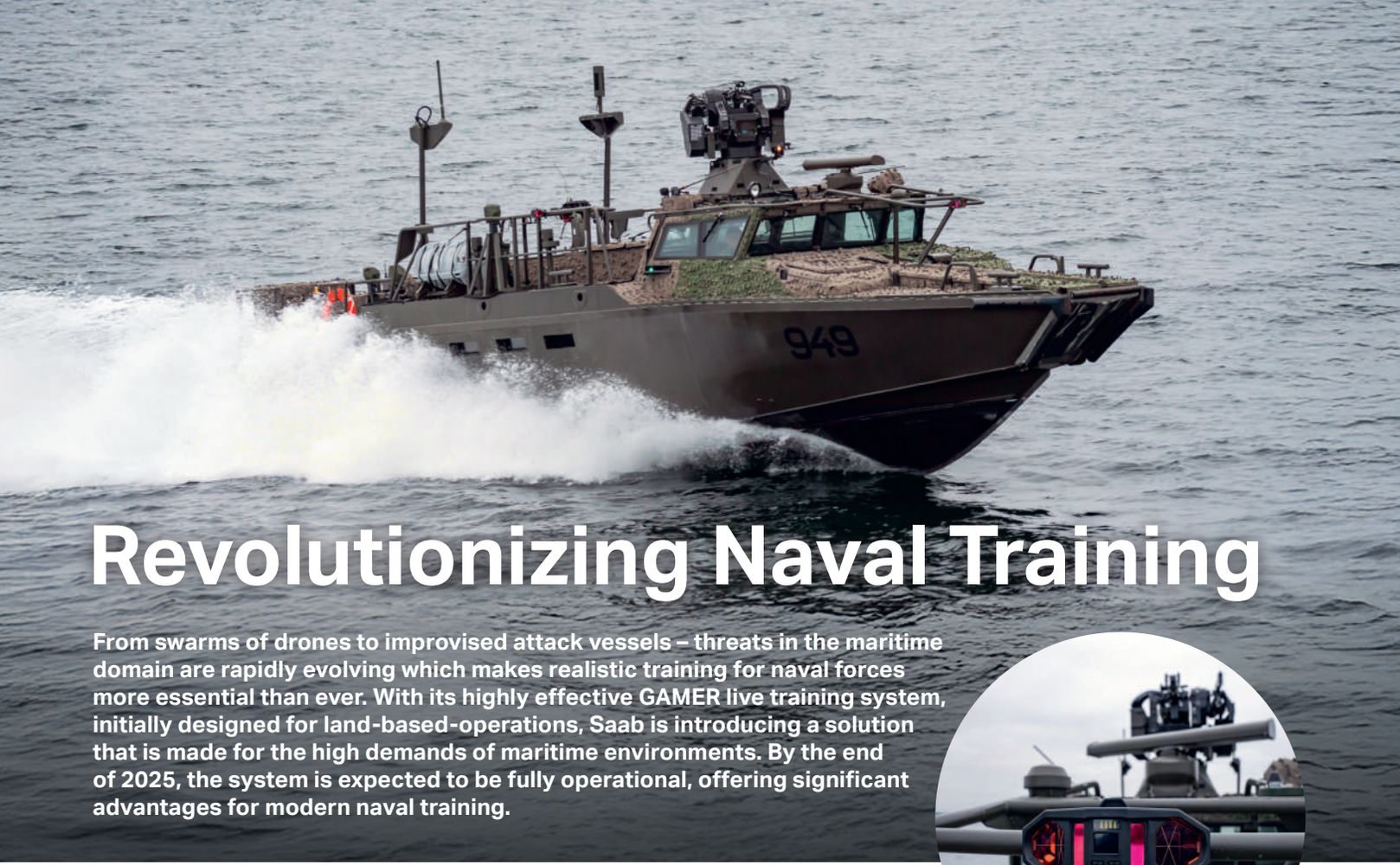

Revolutionizing Naval Training

From swarms of drones to improvised attack vessels – threats in the maritime domain are rapidly evolving which makes realistic training for naval forces more essential than ever. With its highly effective GAMER live training system, initially designed for land-based-operations, Saab is introducing a solution that is made for the high demands of maritime environments. By the end of 2025, the system is expected to be fully operational, offering significant advantages for modern naval training.

For more than 30 years, Saab has been developing its training system continuously to meet new challenges. Always with a focus on those factors that are crucial for truly effective training: realism, scalability, operational readiness, standardisation and interoperability. The GAMER system which is currently used by more than 35 nations in Europe and North America, including numerous NATO member states, relies on a combination of laser-based simulators, sophisticated ballistic modelling and geometric coupling technology to create highly realistic combat scenarios. It provides a safe training environment without using live ammunition, enabling naval forces to simulate complex engagements effectively. However, transitioning the system from land to sea involves evaluating how it will adapt to the unique maritime environment, such as saltwater exposure and potential maintenance needs. A dedicated community of GAMER nations – the 'Interoperability User Community' (IUC) – with its.

Accessibility

One of the key benefits of the Maritime Live Training system is its ability to conduct exercises close to port, eliminating the need for long-distance travel or airspace clearances to train forces and develop new tactics. By utilizing laser systems, which require far fewer safety restrictions than live ammunition, naval forces can train conveniently near harbours, significantly increasing the frequency and accessibility of exercises. GAMER – for land as well as for sea – features a range of interoperable software tools to support the entire training lifecycle: from planning and preparation to execution, control, and evaluation. Components of the system include firing systems, target systems, communications infrastructure, and exercise control systems (EXCON), all integrated to ensure seamless and realistic training experiences.

Laser Technology for Realistic Combat Scenarios

The heart of Saab's Maritime Live Training is the innovative use of laser technology. While many live training systems use a single-path laser to simulate the firing of ammunition, Saab relies on the BT46 two-ways laser technology which precisely models the speed, flight time and flight path of the ammunition and is currently the most accurate and realistic laser-based simulator system in the world. Each laser shot carries encoded data, including information about the ammunition type, calibre, and impact characteristics, following the NATO-standard U-LEIS protocol. This detailed information ensures accurate simulations that mirror real-world combat conditions. The system integrates seamlessly with the ship's fire control systems, providing operators with identical feedback to what they would receive from real ammunition, making the training process extraordinarily realistic.

Multiple threat simulation

The Maritime Live Training system is particularly beneficial for preparing naval forces to face newer threats and challenges, such as drone swarms. By equipping both weapons and drones with laser detectors, naval forces can simulate drone attacks and assess the performance of their combat systems. This allows crews to refine anti-drone tactics, identify the best ammunition types, and determine optimal engagement ranges. Moreover, the system is capable of simulating a wide range of threats, from small surface vessels to aerial drones as small as 50 centimeters in wingspan. With clever programming, a single drone can simulate multiple threats, enabling navies to conduct complex scenarios without needing to deploy a large number of physical assets.

Saab's system extends beyond ship-based weapons, creating a complete training environment. Boarding teams, for example, can be equipped with personal laser detectors and small arms transmitters, with their locations tracked via GPS. This real-time tracking allows exercise controllers to monitor every participant's position during operations like boarding suspicious vessels, adding another layer of realism. For larger vessels, such as frigates, laser detectors can be strategically placed to protect vulnerable areas like the bridge, engine room, or ammunition storage compartments. This simulates realistic vulnerability models, training crews to target enemy weak points while safeguarding their own.

AI for After-Action Reviews

In the near future, Saab plans to incorporate artificial intelligence and data analytic tools to enhance after-action reviews. As naval forces around the world face increasingly complex and unpredictable threats, Saab's new Maritime Live Training solution provides an invaluable tool to develop both tactical expertise and doctrinal approaches required for modern maritime warfare. This cutting-edge training system ensures that navies are better prepared to meet the challenges of tomorrow's combat environments.

SAAB TECHNOLOGIES

SAAB

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

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

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

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

The signing of this CRADA agreement marks a significant milestone in the ongoing efforts to strengthen the defense capabilities of both the United States and its allies. By combining the innovative technologies and expertise of Rafael with the extensive research and development capabilities of DEVCOM's AVMC, this partnership is poised to deliver state-of-the-art missile systems that will enhance the effectiveness and survivability of the U.S. Army.

The SPIKE missile system, known for its versatility and precision, has already been widely adopted by numerous countries around the world including 20 NATO members. This collaboration with DEVCOM is expected to further enhance the U.S Army's familiarization with these capabilities and ensure its continued lethality in the face of emerging threats.

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

INTRACOM DEFENSE and ETIMAD join forces

Intracom Defense (IDE) signed a Memorandum of Understanding with ETIMAD Strategic Security Solutions (ESSS) in the sector of Tactical Communication Systems, with the aim to enhance operational availability and efficiency, and elevate service quality towards the Armed Forces of the United Arab Emirates.

The agreement was signed by Mr. Khaled Al Ali, CEO of ETIMAD Holding Group and Mr. George Troullinos, CEO of Intracom Defense, during the International Defense Exhibition IDEX 2025 in Abu Dhabi, where IDE participated in the frame of the Hellenic Pavilion.
This agreement focuses initially on providing end-user industrial support and security of supply, related to Tactical Communication and Information Systems of IDE, currently under deployment process at the UAE, as well as to jointly addressing future market opportunities, utilizing ETIMAD's advanced industrial capabilities.
ESSS is a UAE-based company, as part of ETIMAD Holding under the EDGE GROUP, specialized in advanced technology solutions and services, with a dedicated focus on security systems integration and project fulfillment. ESSS has established itself as a leading project manager for strategic projects, such as Safe City, Border, Coastal & Critical Infrastructures globally, delivering efficient and high-quality services across various sectors.

© Intracom Defense

GDELS-Steyr shows new air defense variant of the PANDUR EVO at AUSA Global Force

General Dynamics European Land Systems–Steyr will present a new variant of the PANDUR 6x6 EVO at AUSA Global Force in Huntsville, Alabama from March 25 to 27. The new Maneuver Short Range Air Defense, or M-SHORAD, variant is equipped with Moog's unmanned RIwP turret (Reconfigurable Integrated-weapons Platform), a proven, modular, and scalable weapons platform for air defense, anti-tank or fire support with a medium-caliber cannon and missile effectors.

The PANDUR with integrated RIwP is a further proof of the high flexibility and modularity of this family of vehicles. Based on the proven PANDUR platform, the system is equipped with a 30 x 113 mm caliber XM914 cannon and 2 x 4 launchers for Stinger anti-aircraft missiles. The cannon is able to fire ammunition with proximity fuse. A software-defined cognitive Ku-band, 4D medium-range pulse-Doppler radar of the next generation Echodyne EchoShield is used to monitor the airspace at close range and for target tracking. Two control consoles for the weapon system and the fire control computers are located inside the vehicle. The M-SHORAD PANDUR is particularly capable of providing highly mobile force protection against manned and unmanned airborne threats.

© GDELS

The current centerpiece of the U.S. Army's mobile air defense are the STRYKER-based SGT STOUT (M-SHORAD Inc 1) and the C-UAS program M-LIDS (Mobile Low slow small-unmanned aircraft Integrated Defeat System), both also using the RIwP turret. A total of 100 PANDUR 6x6 EVO will shortly be in service with the Austrian Armed Forces. In February 2024, the Austrian MoD has ordered a further 225 vehicles in twelve different mission variants.

The three-day AUSA Global Force Symposium & Exposition 2025 is expected to attract more than 6000 attendees. The event highlights how the U.S. Army will modernize and transform into a multi-domain capable force.

BAE Systems receives $188.5 million contract from U.S. Marine Corps for Amphibious Combat Vehicle 30mm

BAE Systems has been awarded a $188.5 million full-rate production (FRP) contract from the U.S. Marine Corps for 30 ACV-30mm vehicles, which includes fielding support, spares and test equipment. This is the first award as part of the FRP Lot 5/6 contract.

The ACV-30 includes an integrated medium caliber Remote Turret System which the government is procuring separately and integrating at Naval Information Warfare Integration Center Atlantic. The ACV-30 enables transport of troops, mission essential equipment, and other payloads, while providing the lethality and protection Marines need. The lightweight turret system also ensures platform mobility is preserved.

“The ACV is tested and proven to be incredibly adaptable – it not only swims, but it’s also optimized for ship-to-shore, island-hopping, and advanced land operations,”

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said Rebecca McGrane, vice president of Amphibious programs at BAE Systems. “With enhanced direct-fire lethality via the 30mm fully stabilized weapon system, the ACV-30 helps to ensure Marines are ready for any mission, land or sea.”

In addition, BAE Systems is currently under contract for the ACV-Personnel (ACV-P) and ACV-Command (ACV-C). The ACV-P variant has the ability to transport 13 combat-loaded Marines plus three crew, while the ACV-C variant provides multiple workstations for Marines to maintain and manage situational awareness in battle space.

ANTI-DRONE SYSTEM

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

WB GROUP

GREEK DEFENCE NEWS DAILY DAY 2

DEFEA 2025 SHOW DAILY

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

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

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

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

Where are we now?

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

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

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

Where do we want to go?

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

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

Section 1: Power & Impact

Missions & Operations:

The broad range of modern security challenges, regional instability, and fragile geopolitical balances raise concerns and prevent complacency. Therefore, there is a strong necessity to highlight Greece's role as a pillar of stability, a provider rather than a consumer of security in the Eastern Mediterranean region.
A priority is to promote the Hellenic Navy as a factor of naval power and deterrence, enabling the enhancement of Greece's footprint in regions of national interest.
The Hellenic Navy must continue honoring its commitments and fulfilling its obligations to the UN, NATO, and the EU by actively participating in initiatives that promote peace and security, in coordination with friends and allies.

Mission & Operations Rationalization:

The modernization of the Navy's Force Structure and the integration of innovative products, while considering both fiscal constraints and human resource shortages, demand a rationalization of the current missions of the Hellenic Navy.
We must balance resources appropriately between availability, readiness, capability development, operational commitments, and the projection of naval power. Specifically, it requires updating the organization and functioning, re-defining processes, revising operational planning, and promoting jointness as the key to success in modern operational theaters.

Active Military Diplomacy:

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

Section 2: Transformation & Force Structure

Modernization of Force Structure & Fleet Renewal:

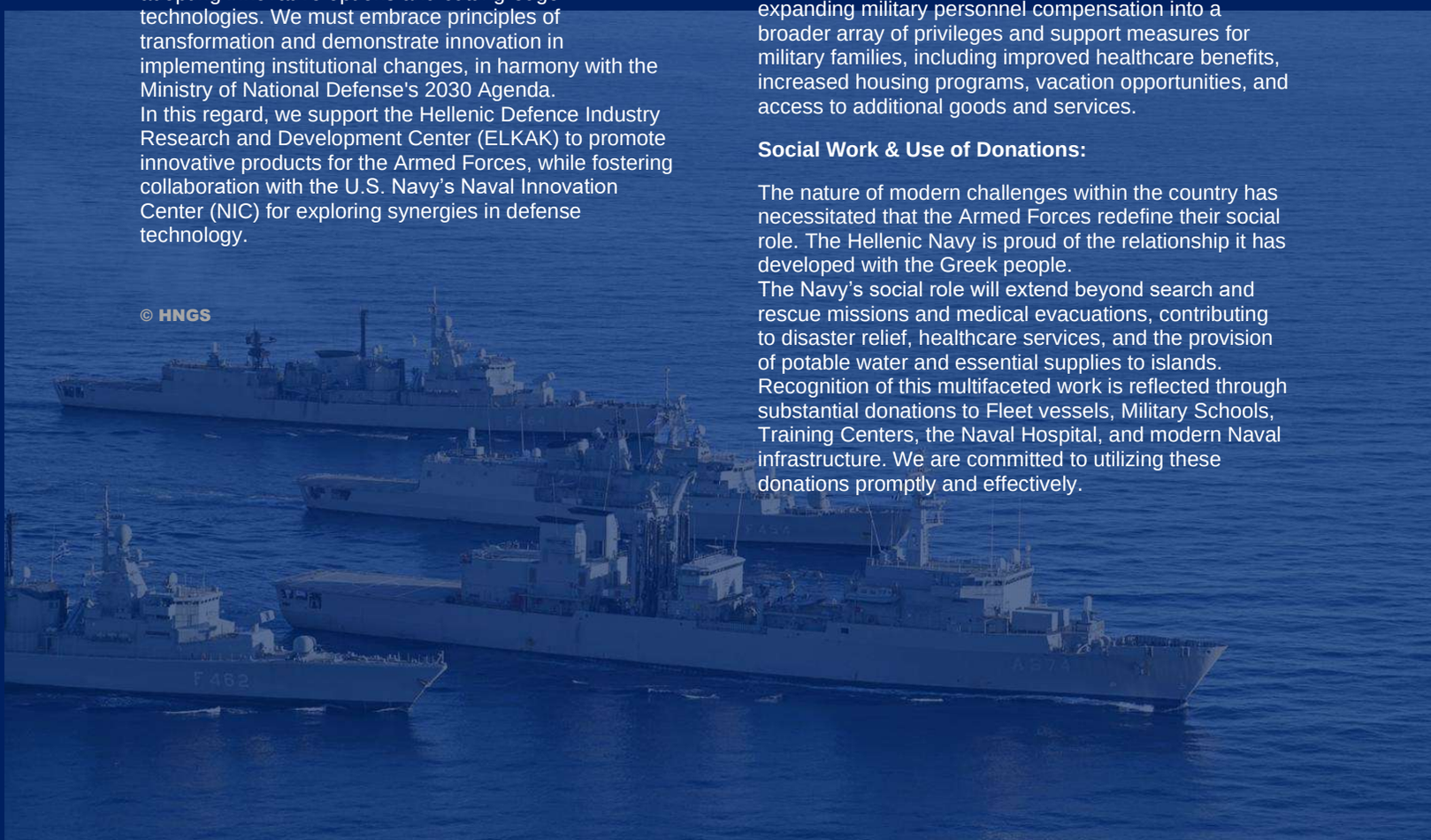
The modern security environment, coupled with technological advancements, underscores the need for transformation and the necessity of modernizing the force structure. The goal is to renew the Hellenic Navy's units with an appropriate quantitative configuration that will ensure operational capability while focusing on the qualitative enhancement of the Fleet.
Simultaneously, maintaining the appropriate number of high-quality units will allow for both the conservation of financial resources and the more efficient use of human resources.

Equipment Programs & Exploitation of Domestic Industry:

Updating and implementing targeted procurement programs that align with the Navy’s new structure, such as the Belharra frigates program, Romeo helicopters, ISLAND and PROTECTOR-type patrol vessels, new submarine programs, and the upgrading of MEKO frigates, submarines, and torpedo boats.
These programs will contribute to the operational value of the Hellenic Navy while also rejuvenating the domestic defense industry. The Hellenic Navy cannot simply be a consumer of weapon systems; it is essential to link its needs with the development of the Greek defense industry (a key example: the KENTAUROS anti-drone system by EAV).

Innovation/Transformation:

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



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Section 3: Personnel & Society

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

Training & Career Pathways:

We will adapt training systems and human resource mechanisms to meet the evolving trends and desires for flexibility and mobility, implementing innovative reforms aimed at modernizing the training of both permanent personnel and sailors, as well as upgrading infrastructure and organizing Military Schools.
We will implement the CAREER PATH program, with multiple career flows and developmental paths that will allow us to utilize and meet the broad range of skills and expectations of the younger generation, while cultivating a spirit of ethics, justice, and meritocracy.

Support & Benefits:

We firmly believe that our crews will perform and succeed when they are confident that their loved ones are safe, their quality of life is ensured, and their needs are addressed. Hence, following the establishment of the new Fleet bonus and the increase in the remuneration of Naval Academy students and military cadets, we consider it our duty to review conventional salary packages.
Our focus is on enhancing indirect benefits and expanding military personnel compensation into a broader array of privileges and support measures for military families, including improved healthcare benefits, increased housing programs, vacation opportunities, and access to additional goods and services.

Social Work & Use of Donations:

The nature of modern challenges within the country has necessitated that the Armed Forces redefine their social role. The Hellenic Navy is proud of the relationship it has developed with the Greek people.
The Navy’s social role will extend beyond search and rescue missions and medical evacuations, contributing to disaster relief, healthcare services, and the provision of potable water and essential supplies to islands.
Recognition of this multifaceted work is reflected through substantial donations to Fleet vessels, Military Schools, Training Centers, the Naval Hospital, and modern Naval infrastructure. We are committed to utilizing these donations promptly and effectively.

SKYRANGER 35: THE FUTURE OF AGILE, MULTI-ROLE AIR DEFENCE

By Jeffrey Wild, Sales Director at Rheinmetall Air Defence AG and conscript Deputy Air Defence Battalion Commander (Maj), Swiss Air Force.

In an era where the battlefield is increasingly shaped by asymmetric aerial threats, the demand for scalable, agile, and economically sustainable air defence systems has never been more urgent. At the heart of Rheinmetall's cutting-edge response to this evolving threat, stands the Skyranger 35, a mobile, cannon-based air defence system that is rapidly defining a new gold standard in close-in protection.

A PURE-BRED MULTI-ROLE PROTECTOR

The Skyranger 35 is engineered to provide dynamic, multi-role protection across a wide range of operational scenarios - from mobile convoy escort to static vital asset defence and even small area denial. Mounted on wheeled or tracked platforms, the system's compact design and high mobility allow it to move with forward units, protecting high-value assets and manoeuvre elements alike.

What distinguishes Skyranger 35 is its 35mm x 228 calibre revolver cannon, armed with Rheinmetall's proprietary AHEAD (Advanced Hit Efficiency And Destruction) ammunition. Both derived and optimized from the legendary C-RAM System "MANTIS". The AHEAD round ejects an individually programmed, forward-facing cone of several hundred tungsten sub-projectiles at a precise distance from the target, effectively creating a focused wall of metal in the path of incoming threats. Whether it is intercepting NATO Class 1 drones, micro-UAVs, or fast-moving cruise missiles, the Skyranger 35 offers surgical lethality and an unmatched cost to kill economy in its range category.

AGAINST THE UNMANNED SWARM

Drone threats, particularly small and micro drones, represent a cost-imposing nightmare for traditional missile-based systems. The high rate of fire and precisely programmed AHEAD rounds allow operators to neutralize entire swarms with very small salvos, at a cost-per-kill that is an order of magnitude lower than SHORAD missile systems.

Moreover, the system is network-capable and sensor agnostic, able to ingest targeting data from a range of sources including radar, EO/IR sensors, and third-party battlefield networks. Its fire control system automatically selects the optimal engagement mode - whether for a single drone, a dense swarm, or a high-speed missile.

CRUISE MISSILES, ROTARY & FIXED-WING TARGETS

Though optimized for the low, slow, and small threats that are redefining modern airspace, the Skyranger 35 retains a formidable ability to counter conventional aerial platforms. Against cruise missiles, it offers rapid reaction and the capability of saturating an ingress corridor with pre-fragmented sub-projectiles, denying enemy systems a clear route to target.

While rotary- and fixed-wing aircraft are no longer the primary design threat, the system's fast traverse rate, high elevation, and up to 4,000-metre engagement envelope make it capable of opportunistic strikes against these platforms - especially during low-level ingress or egress, when aircraft are at their most vulnerable.

THE SMART ECONOMICS OF CANNON-BASED DEFENCE

One of the key advantages of the Skyranger 35 lies in its favourable cost-to-effect ratio. Missile systems, while potent, are expensive and finite. By contrast, the cannon based Skyranger offers high-volume firepower with scalable expenditure, enabling continuous operation in high-tempo environments. AHEAD ammunition's programmable nature also eliminates the need for costly proximity fuses or on-board seekers, further driving down logistical and operational costs.

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The system requires no complex missile reload mechanisms. This allows operators to maintain a persistent, forward-deployed presence without the burden of high-end resupply chains.

CANNON-MISSILE SYNERGY: THE V/SHORAD EVOLUTION

In isolation, the Skyranger 35 is already a formidable asset - but when integrated with V/SHORAD missile systems, it becomes the cornerstone of a layered defence ecosystem. Missiles handle longer-range threats and comparatively high-altitude engagements, while the cannon system dominates the short-range, high-density battlespace.

This mutual coverage is critical in modern combat, where saturation tactics and multi-vector attacks are common. The cannon fills the “gap” between initial detection and missile launch windows, and it can continue engaging when missile stocks are depleted or when engagement parameters fall below a missile’s minimum range.

This layered effect creates a seamless defensive bubble - where no target is too small, too fast, or too close to escape. Moreover, the shared sensor and command architecture between Skyranger and modern SHORAD systems allows for coordinated fires and real-time threat prioritization.

A SYSTEM FOR THE BATTLEFIELD TODAY AND TOMORROW

As NATO and allied nations confront an increasingly drone-saturated battlespace - from urban warfare zones to contested border regions - the Skyranger 35 offers a battlefield-proven, economically viable, and technologically advanced cannon in a mobile all-in-one solution.

Whether deployed to protect forward operating bases, critical infrastructure, or on-the-move forces, this system delivers a powerful mix of mobility, modularity, and mature firepower. More than a cannon - it is a strategic enabler for layered defence. To experience the Skyranger 35 first-hand and speak with Rheinmetall’s air defence experts, visit booth E2 in Hall 3. The future of agile air defence is here - do not miss it.

EDGE to Continue Expansion of its Naval Capabilities through Multi-Billion Euro Joint Venture with CMN NAVAL

On 19 March 2025, EDGE Group, a leading UAE-based advanced technology and defence conglomerate, and CMN NAVAL, a renowned European naval shipbuilding firm, announced the formation of a new joint venture named AD NAVAL (ADN). This strategic partnership will be headquartered in Abu Dhabi, UAE, and is aimed at significantly expanding EDGE's capabilities in naval shipbuilding and maritime defence solutions.

The joint venture will focus on manufacturing small to mid-size naval vessels, including corvettes, offshore patrol vessels (OPVs), high-speed interceptors, trimarans, and landing craft. The initiative is backed by a substantial non-NATO commercial order pipeline valued at approximately EUR 7 billion, which will be transferred to the new company. The partnership is governed by an exclusivity agreement between the two entities in these key ship categories.

EDGE will hold a 51% majority stake in AD NAVAL and will lead in sales, engineering, and commercial activities. The company plans to establish a dedicated design bureau that will own all intellectual property rights for future naval designs developed under the joint venture.

Additionally, EDGE will benefit from CMN NAVAL's global supply chain and its sophisticated Integrated Logistics Support (ILS) systems. These capabilities will enable cost-effective, high-performance vessel maintenance through predictive and preventative measures and ensure efficient management of spare parts.

A central focus of the partnership will be the integration of EDGE's advanced technologies, including autonomous air and sea systems, smart weapons, and cyber and radar solutions, onto the naval platforms built by AD NAVAL. This strategic integration will enhance the operational capabilities of the vessels and offer tailored defence solutions for non-NATO navies, especially in regions such as Africa, one of EDGE's core markets.

EDGE Group CEO Hamad Al Marar emphasized that this venture aligns with EDGE's strategy of controlled growth through international collaboration. He highlighted the opportunity for knowledge-sharing and technology transfer between EDGE and CMN NAVAL, and the significant role AD NAVAL will play in generating direct and indirect employment in the UAE and across the venture's global ecosystem. The partnership is expected to not only boost the UAE's defence manufacturing base but also support broader economic diversification and industrial development.

The announcement builds on a prior agreement signed at IDEX 2025, a major defence exhibition held in Abu Dhabi, where both parties first outlined plans for collaboration across naval innovation, systems integration, and commercial ventures. The JV is expected to pioneer AI-driven systems, modular ship designs, and next-generation combat platforms, setting new industry standards in naval innovation.

Pierre Balmer, Chairman of CMN NAVAL, noted the venture's strategic significance in reinforcing both companies' global presence, promoting industrial cooperation, and advancing the creation of next-generation maritime defence technologies. CMN NAVAL brings decades of shipbuilding experience, having built over 3,500 vessels and supported 48 navies globally, including its past contributions to the UAE's Baynunah corvette program.

In essence, AD NAVAL represents a powerful synergy between UAE innovation and European shipbuilding heritage, aimed at reshaping the naval defence landscape through advanced manufacturing, international collaboration, and cutting-edge technologies.

First sea trials of the Vlissingen, first mine countermeasure vessel for the Dutch Navy

The Vlissingen, the second of the series of mine countermeasures vessels of the Belgian-Dutch rMCM programme, first intended for the Royal Netherlands Navy, began her first sea trials campaign from Concarneau, France, on March 27th 2025. The aim is to implement and test at sea the vessel's performance before its delivery at the end of 2025. The rMCM programme is being led by Belgium Naval & Robotics, a consortium formed by Naval Group and Exail, involving Kership (a joint venture between Piriou and Naval Group) as industrial prime contractor. During this first day at sea, the ship's performance has been put to the test, in particular her propulsion system and manoeuvrability. Several sea trials campaigns will then follow to test all the systems, before her delivery at the end of 2025.

The first vessel, Oostende, intended for the Belgian Navy is currently undergoing trials of her combat system in Naval Group Lorient shipyard. It will be delivered during the summer 2025. The first sea trials of the Tournai, third vessel of the program and second unit intended for the Belgian Navy, are planned for the end of the summer 2025. The fourth vessel, the Scheveningen, second vessel intended for the Royal Netherlands Navy, was launched on November 2024. All twelve vessels ordered in the frame of the rMCM program will be delivered before end of 2030.

Awarded in 2019 to Belgium Naval & Robotics, the consortium formed by Naval Group and Exail, the rMCM programme is a major component of european defence cooperation.

Naval Group is responsible for ship design, overall mission systems integration, testing and commissioning. The ships are built and assembled by Kership and Chantier Piriou, under the overall industrial management of Kership, a joint venture between Naval Group and Piriou. Exail is in charge of the drone's mission system. Most of these drones will be produced and maintained in Exail Belgium subsidiary based in Ostend.

These specialised and cyber secured by design mine countermeasures (MCM) vessels are the first to have the capability to embark and launch a combination of surface drones (themselves 12-metre, 19- tonne vessels), underwater drones and aerial drones. The mine countermeasures vessels will use a mainly autonomous system for detection, classification, identification and neutralisation of mines. This approach with an unmanned integrated system enables safe and rapid clearance of mined areas—up to ten times faster than traditional methods. The MCM vessels can withstand underwater explosions and have very low acoustic, electrical and magnetic signatures, in line with the missions to be carried out.

These mine countermeasure vessels have the following characteristics:

- Length: 82,6m
- Width: 17m
- Displacement: 2800t
- Maximum speed: 15,3 knots
- Range: >3500 nautical miles
- Crew: 63 people (base crew 33 people)
- Drone capabilities: Exail UMISOFT Software suite, 2 unmanned surface vehicles (Exail Inspector 125), 3 autonomous underwater vehicles (A-18 equipped with Exail UMISAS 120 sonar), 2 towed sonars (T-18 equipped with Exail UMISAS 240 sonar), 2 Mine Identification & Disposal Systems (MIDS) systems (Exail Seascan and K-Ster C), 2 unmanned aerial vessels (UMS Skeldar's V200), 1 Exail influence mine sweeping system integrating 5 CTM magnetic modules et 1 PATRIA acoustic module
- Embarkation capacity: 2 SOLAS rigid hull inflatable boats of 7m
- Handling: 2 side launch & recovery systems for surface drones or commando boats, a 15t dedicated rear crane and a 3t overhead crane

A Tradition of Trust, A Future of Strength: Israel Shipyards' Legacy and Leadership in Naval Innovation

From the deep blue of the Mediterranean to the expansive coastal waters of West Africa, maritime power remains a defining pillar of national security and economic resilience. In today's complex and interconnected defense environment, the ability to deter threats, protect sea lanes, and project naval influence depends on much more than vessels—it relies on enduring partnerships, adaptive technology, and industrial foresight. At the heart of this equation is Israel Shipyards Ltd., a company whose legacy in both shipbuilding and strategic cooperation makes it a vital player in the evolving defense landscape.

With a history of technical innovation, operational reliability, and cross-border collaboration, Israel Shipyards has become synonymous with naval excellence. From building high-performance platforms for the Israeli Navy to supporting maintenance and modernization initiatives across Latin America, Africa, and Europe, the company continues to shape the future of maritime defense. Although Israel Shipyards will not be exhibiting at DEFEA 2025 in Athens, its presence remains powerful through the vessels, partnerships, and performance it has delivered, especially in Greece and across strategic global regions.

Legacy Built on Trust: Greece and the Foundations of Partnership

The enduring relationship between Israel Shipyards and Greece is a prime example of defense collaboration rooted in mutual trust and shared maritime security objectives. A landmark moment in this partnership occurred in the early 2000s when the Hellenic Coast Guard ordered two 58-meter Offshore Patrol Vessels (OPVs) from Israel Shipyards. Delivered in late 2003 and early 2004, just before the 2004 Athens Olympic Games, these OPVs were deployed to bolster Greece's maritime perimeter during one of the world's most high-profile events. Designed for rapid response, high maneuverability, and broad mission scope, the OPVs ensured Greek coastal forces' safety and operational readiness. Their effectiveness during the Olympics demonstrated Israel Shipyards' ability to meet tight delivery schedules and mission-critical standards and laid the groundwork for ongoing strategic collaboration between the two nations.

A Naval Revolution: Introducing the RESHEF-Class Multi-Mission Corvette

As defense challenges evolve, Israel Shipyards enters a new era with the RESHEF-class multi-mission corvette—a next-generation vessel developed in close collaboration with the Israeli Navy and the Israeli Ministry of Defense (IMOD). Built to replace the long-serving Sa'ar 4.5 class, the RESHEF is more than a successor: it's a transformational leap in maritime capability. With a length of 80 meters and a displacement of approximately 1,000 tons, the RESHEF-class integrates speed, firepower, and survivability. Its weapon suite includes a C-Dome naval air defense system, a maritime adaptation of the Iron Dome, offering protection against aerial threats, including UAVs and missiles. A 76mm naval gun, advanced surface-to-surface missiles, and electronic warfare systems equip the vessel to dominate both coastal and open-sea theaters. The vessel's modular configuration allows for dynamic reconfiguration to suit various mission types-counterterrorism, anti-piracy, surveillance, or humanitarian response. With an operational range of 3,500 nautical miles and speeds exceeding 28 knots, the RESHEF is designed to operate wherever and whenever needed.

From the RESHEF to the World: The Sa'ar S-80 Export Variant

Global naval forces face increasing pressure to modernize while staying cost-effective. The Sa'ar S-80, the export variant of the RESHEF, addresses this challenge with precision. Developed with export flexibility in mind, the S-80 combines the powerful core of the RESHEF-class with custom options tailored to specific mission profiles and budgets. First revealed at Euronaval 2022 in Paris, the S-80 has generated significant interest from European and Asian navies. These regions—facing dynamic maritime threat environments and expanding blue-water ambitions—seek platforms that offer advanced

RESHEF-class multi-mission corvette

technology, scalability, and network-centric integration without the complexities of larger capital ships. The S-80 meets that demand with finesse. Whether configured for anti-surface warfare, EEZ protection, or regional patrol, the platform offers interoperability and adaptability, reinforcing Israel Shipyards' role as a key partner in global naval modernization.

Building Capacity: Transfer of Technology (ToT) and Training Programs

Israel Shipyards' commitment to its partners doesn't end at vessel delivery. Its Transfer of Technology (ToT) and long-term training programs set a new standard in defense collaboration. These initiatives are designed to empower nations to take charge of their naval assets, ensuring operational independence and sustainable capability development.

This comprehensive ToT model includes:

- Infrastructure Development – Support for building or upgrading local shipyards to conduct repairs, retrofits, and maintenance.
- Workforce Upskilling – Advanced training for local engineers, naval personnel, and technicians in maintenance, diagnostics, and operations.
- Joint Production – Co-production or final assembly opportunities, enhancing national industries and local job creation.
- Lifecycle Support – Access to remote diagnostics, advisory teams, and a robust spare parts supply chain, ensuring maximum fleet availability.
- This approach allows nations to enhance their defense postures while nurturing domestic defense ecosystems.

Global Impact: Success Stories from Ghana and Chile

Real-world application of these principles can be seen in successful programs like the ISL-Ghana Maintenance Project. Developed to reduce operational downtime and enhance Ghana's naval readiness, the initiative has delivered a 30% reduction in vessel unavailability. This was achieved through structured maintenance regimes, local technician training, and implementing a depot-level spare parts strategy. Israel Shipyards' legacy in Chile is in the Sa'ar 4-class "Casma", initially commissioned in 1979. Operating in some of the most challenging maritime environments of the South Pacific, this vessel has served faithfully for over 45 years, carrying out a range of missions including maritime surveillance, search and rescue, and interdiction. Its longevity speaks volumes about the engineering integrity and lifecycle philosophy of Israel Shipyards.

From Athens to Africa: A Strategic Maritime Bridge

Israel Shipyards' legacy in Greece and its strategic footprint across the Mediterranean remain deeply respected. The successful OPV deliveries ahead of the 2004 Olympics proved its capabilities under global scrutiny. This legacy of reliability and responsiveness still informs regional partnerships today. In parallel, the company's collaborative footprint extends to Africa, where platforms and maintenance programs are helping navies like Ghana's strengthen local capabilities and secure maritime domains. From Latin America to Africa, Israel Shipyards' mission is to deliver platforms and empower nations with the tools, knowledge, and infrastructure to own their maritime futures.

Conclusion: Innovation Meets Responsibility

As defense paradigms shift, the future belongs to naval solutions that are as agile as they are enduring. With over 65 years of experience, Israel Shipyards combines time-tested engineering with a progressive vision. From the groundbreaking RESHEF-class to the adaptable Sa'ar S-80, each project is a blend of technology, trust, and transformation. Israel Shipyards doesn't just build ships. It builds partnerships. It delivers resilience. It crafts capability. And through every vessel it launches and every alliance it forges, it reaffirms its commitment to global maritime security.


SHALDAG MK V


OPV S62


Honduras - 62m

© Photos credit Israel Shipyards

THE NINTH FREMM UNIT “SPARTACO SCHERGAT” DELIVERED TO THE ITALIAN NAVY

On 15 April 2025, at Fincantieri's Muggiano (La Spezia) shipyard, Orizzonte Sistemi Navali (OSN), a joint venture owned by Fincantieri (51%) and Leonardo (49%), delivered the multi-role frigate ‘Spartaco Schergat’ to the Italian Navy, the ninth in a series of 10 FREMM (European Multi-Mission Frigates) commissioned to Orizzonte Sistemi Navali as Prime Contractor, Whole Warship and Combat System Design Autority under the Italian-French international cooperation agreement, and whose contract was signed with OCCAR, Organisation Conjointe de Coopération en matière d'Armement.

The ceremony was attended, among others, by Dario Deste, General Manager of Fincantieri’s Naval Vessels Division, Giovanni Sorrentino, CEO of OSN, OCCAR Director General Joachim Sucker, Admiral Vincenzo Montanaro, Commander of the Interregional Maritime Command South, Admiral Giuseppe Abbamonte, Director of Naval Armaments and General Francois Watteau, DGA representative.

The FREMM program, launched in 2005 with the first ship delivered in July 2012, envisages the supply of four General Purpose Units, four Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) units, and two Enhanced Anti-Submarine units. As part of this program, two next-generation FREMM frigates in the “EVOLUTION” version - known as “FREMM EVO” - are currently under construction at the Fincantieri Integrated Shipyard of Riva Trigoso and Muggiano, with deliveries scheduled for 2029 and 2030.

The new unit, built at the Fincantieri Integrated Shipyard of Riva Trigoso and Muggiano, is equipped with the most advanced systems produced by Fincantieri, Leonardo, MBDA, and Elettronica. As the other FREMM units, it offers high operational flexibility and is capable of operating in all tactical scenarios. The ship is 144 meters long, 19.7 meters wide, and has a full- load displacement of approximately 6,700 tons. It can reach a speed of over 27 knots and accommodate up to 200 people on board.

These ships’ innovative and cyber-resilient characteristics are the result of significant design, organizational, and management efforts. A high level of automation has been integrated into next-generation onboard systems, used for all onboard services. This approach contributes to ensuring high operational availability, supported by an optimized maintenance profile. Extensive Human Factors studies have guided the design to create more efficient and optimized workspaces tailored to various operational needs. The ship also features extended autonomy (approximately 6,000 nautical miles at 15 knots) and logistical standards suitable for prolonged operations, even outside the broader Mediterranean area.

Spartaco Schergat, the first of the two units in the Enhanced Anti-Submarine Warfare configuration, is optimized as a multi-role vessel, incorporating systems

typical of both the General-Purpose version - allowing a balanced contribution across all combat domains - and the ASW version, with enhanced anti-submarine capabilities for sea control operations, maritime communications line protection, and naval interdiction. It will also be able to serve as a complex command center, managing joint and combined operations.

The FREMM (European Multi-Mission Frigate) program is the most significant joint initiative developed among European industries in the naval sector and represents the cutting edge of Italian and European defense. It stems from the need to renew the Italian Navy’s fleet, particularly replacing the “Lupo” and “Maestrale” class frigates, built by Fincantieri in the 1970s and in the 1980s.

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ΥΠΟΥΡΓΕΙΟ ΑΜΥΝΑΣ

SKARAMANGAS SHIPYARDS

Skaramangas Shipyards is a landmark of Greece's maritime heritage, with a proud history of delivering successful newbuilding projects across both commercial and naval sectors. The decision to revive this critical infrastructure aligns with my firm belief that the future of our nation lies at sea.

Skaramangas Shipyards goal is to preserve and build upon the invaluable expertise of Skaramangas' experienced workforce, while integrating the latest advancements in shipbuilding technology. With a proven track record of more than 200 vessel deliveries across a wide range of types, our team is well-equipped to design and execute highly efficient, cutting-edge shipbuilding solutions.

Vice President and CEO of Skaramangas Shipyards, Miltiadis Varvitsiotis in an exclusive interview with the GREEK DEFENCE NEWS presents its products and explains how the Hellenic Navy will benefit from local production of the most advances warships and will gain a high level of independence.

What is the vision and growth strategy of Skaramangas Shipyards in the coming years, especially following the signing of the memorandum of cooperation for the Maritime Innovation Center?

At Skaramangas Shipyards, our vision is nothing less than to restore this national asset to the forefront of European shipbuilding. Skaramangas must once again become synonymous with innovation, strength, and excellence. Skaramangas is not just a shipyard — it is a cornerstone of Greece's industrial and strategic autonomy. Our growth strategy combines major infrastructure upgrades, strategic partnerships, investment in human capital, and a bold move into new technological frontiers. We are building not only ships but also the future of Greece's maritime power.

How do you assess the role of Greek shipyards in the European defense and global maritime industry, and what are the growth prospects in the sector of warship shipbuilding?

Today, Europe needs more indigenous defense capabilities, and there is strong demand for modern, warships. It is estimated that more than 160 billion euros will be spent on naval projects the next decade. Skaramangas is strategically positioned to meet these needs. We hold both infrastructure and experience capable of meeting today's needs. We must act decisively, upgrade our competencies, and invest in innovation, something that our president Mr Prokopiou is always aiming for. In this complex environment Greek shipyards must claim the place they deserve — as true protagonists in European and global defense.

Vice President and CEO of Skaramangas Shipyards, Miltiadis Varvitsiotis

Our naval tradition is not a memory of the past; it is a living foundation on which we must build.

What technological innovations do you plan to develop or adopt within the framework of the Maritime Innovation Center?

Innovation is the oxygen of competitiveness. At Skaramangas, we focus on upgrading our production capabilities. We aim to participate in the development of autonomous vessels and modern naval designs suitable for the Hellenic Navy that can fit the international market needs. The recent signing of the memorandum for the Maritime Innovation Center marks a decisive step in this direction. But beyond specific technologies, our goal is to create a culture of innovation a place where the brightest engineers, technicians, and visionaries will collaborate to

shape the future of maritime industries. To tell you the truth the biggest challenge for us is to find these dedicated people to work on these projects.

How does your collaboration with the international defense community, through exhibitions such as DEFEA 2025, enhance the competitiveness and global reach of your shipyards?

Defense exhibitions like DEFEA 2025 are not mere showcases; they are arenas where strategic alliances are forged. They allow us to present Greek shipbuilding excellence to the world, but also to listen, learn, and align ourselves with global needs. Greece has the credibility, the strategic location, and now the ambition to become a key partner in international defense projects. Skaramangas' active participation in such forums amplifies its voice and signals that we are open, dynamic, and ready for global partnerships.

How do geopolitical developments in the Eastern Mediterranean influence the strategy and investments of Skaramangas Shipyards?

The Eastern Mediterranean is a strategic crossroads and a reminder that maritime strength remains fundamental to national sovereignty. Recent developments reaffirm what we already knew: Greece must maintain a robust, modern naval force.

At Skaramangas, we align our investments with this strategic necessity. We are upgrading our facilities, preparing to support next-generation naval programs, and ensuring that we can rapidly respond to the evolving security landscape. Maritime strength is not a luxury; it is a shield for freedom, stability, and prosperity.

Are there any plans for new investments or collaborations with international entities in the defense industry sector?

We are not only open to international collaboration — we actively seek it. Extroversion and strategic alliances are now core elements of our growth model. Skaramangas has initiated discussions with major international players to develop joint ventures, transfer technology, and co-produce naval vessels and submarines. Greece can and must become a trusted partner in global defense supply chains — and Skaramangas will be at the forefront of this transformation.

What is the significance of Skaramangas Shipyards for the Greek economy and national defense, and how do you ensure their sustainability and growth?

A strong Skaramangas means a stronger Greece — militarily, economically, and technologically. We are not only preserving an industrial icon; we are reinventing it for the future. It's not about preserving thousands of jobs that depend on the shipyard's success. Skaramangas is about ensuring Greece's strategic autonomy.

Our strategy focuses on modernization, diversification, innovation, and sustainable business practices. This cannot happen in vacuum. Greek government and the Greek Armed Forces should work together with us for achieving this strategic autonomy. We have to be entrusted with long term contracts that will lead to make Greece capable of designing and building it;s own naval vessels.

What message would you like to send to international investors and partners interested in the shipbuilding and defense industry in Greece?

Today, Greece is a country of stability, ambition, and opportunity. To international investors and partners, I say this: Join us. Greece's strategic position, its skilled workforce, and its political will make it a unique gateway to Europe, the Eastern Mediterranean, and beyond. At Skaramangas, we are building not just ships, but trust, excellence, and a future where Greece stands tall in the global shipbuilding and defense industry.

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Saab signs MoU with ICEYE to integrate advanced space-based radar data to military command systems

Saab signs MoU with ICEYE to integrate advanced space-based radar data to military command systems
Saab and ICEYE, a leading provider of Synthetic-Aperture Radar (SAR) data and analytics, today announced a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to cooperate on the development and integration of advanced space-based radar data in Saab's command and control systems.

This strategic cooperation aims to integrate ICEYE's cutting-edge SAR technology solutions into Saab's command and control systems, enhancing tactical decision-making and situational awareness in defence.

Space-based sensor capabilities are becoming crucial for modern militaries, providing access to critical information in challenging environments. This cooperation intends to deliver tangible value to customers by integrating ICEYE's enhanced situational awareness, long-range targeting, and improved tactical decision-making capabilities with Saab's command and control systems.

© Saab

"Saab's integration with ICEYE data will provide real-time, high-resolution imagery through clouds and darkness, enabling comprehensive surveillance and reconnaissance for faster, even more informed decisions, in complex operational environments," says Carl-Johan Bergholm, Senior Vice President and Head of Saab's business area Surveillance.

The MoU lays the foundations with the initial focus on investigating and demonstrating integration for multi-domain operations. The benefits would enable advanced space situational awareness and critical infrastructure protection capabilities, providing valuable insights for both civilian and military authorities in times of peace, the grey zone or conflict.

Saab signs contract for combat system for the Colombian Navy's new frigate

Saab has signed a contract with Damen Naval for the Colombian Navy. The order includes the 9LV Combat Management System and 9LV Fire Control System, sensors and radars for the new Plataforma Estratégica de Superficie (PES) frigate programme.

Saab has signed a contract with the Dutch shipbuilder Damen Naval to deliver the combat system for the Colombian Navy's new Plataforma Estratégica de Superficie (PES).

The order includes the 9LV Combat Management and 9LV Fire Control System, Ceros 200 radar and optronic tracking fire control director, EOS 500 electro-optical fire control director, Sea Giraffe 4A radars as well as other Saab systems. "The PES programme is state-of-the-art and we are honoured that the Colombian Navy has selected Saab to supply their combat system. Our

© Saab

This is our first time working together," says Carl-Johan Bergholm, Senior Vice President and Head of Business Area Surveillance.

The Colombian Navy's new frigate will be built by Colombian shipbuilder COTECMAR in Cartagena and Damen Naval will deliver engineering, technical support and the shipbuilding material. The design for the Plataforma Estratégica de Superficie is based on the Damen Naval SIGMA 10514 series. The frigate is scheduled for delivery in 2030.

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

Elmon Announce the New APD Bulletproof Vest

Elmon as a leading manufacturer of bulletproof vests has developed a great variety of ballistic concepts to serve the ever-growing end users' demands.

By taking into consideration the eager need to develop affordable ballistic vests, which can protect the end users from even more evolved common threats such as aggressive ammunition, dangerous knife blades and lethal syringe attacks, our team has came up with a ballistic concept which provides 6 different certified protections against all of the above lethal threats.

The new generation Elmon model APD, protection level IIIA per NIJ 0101.04, has been developed to offer great unaffected ballistic performance (and maximum bullet trauma at 9mm) in real conditions (high temperatures, water, UV radiation, etc).

Elmon matched the high-quality materials always used to create a ballistic vest, which apart from its ballistic protection can also protect the end-user from knife (S1/G HOSDB at 20j <10mm), syringe (VPAM KDIW 2004 class l1), hand grenade (DM51< 2.5 m), Special Type Tokarev FMJ 7.62mm x 25mm at a lowest weight of 4.8kg/m2.

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DIAMONDS OF THE GREEK ECONOMY

DIAMONDS OF THE GREEK ECONOMY 2024

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

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

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EODH DYNAMICS

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

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

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

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