ISSN 2547-9067

Greek Defence News

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

ISSUE: May – June 2025 VOL. 25 No 5-6

HELLENIC AIR FORCE

Hellenic Air Force Modernization

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

2025 C4ISR International Conference

11-12 November 2025, Pavilion Hall, Nicosia, Cyprus

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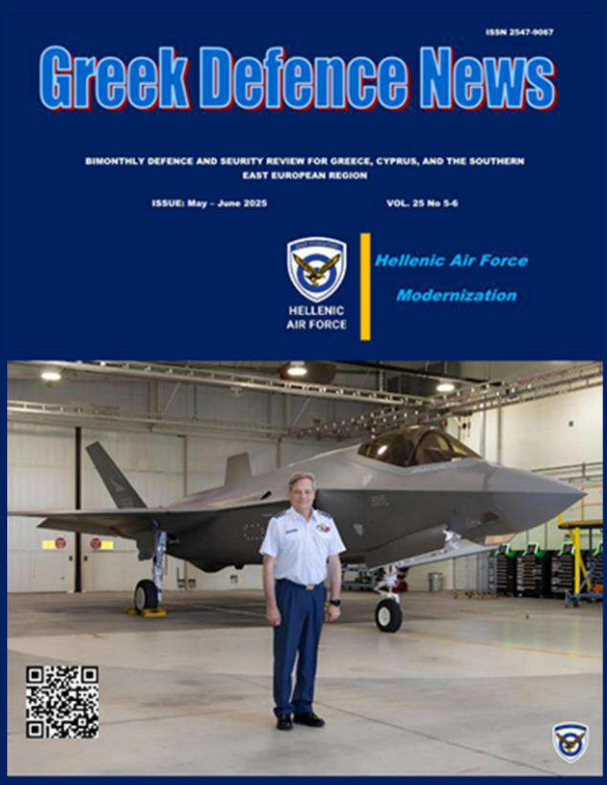

Cover page photo: Hellenic Air Force General Staff
Editor-in-Chief:
Dimitrios Angelopoulos M. Sc.
Marketing & Sales:
Dionysis Antonopoulos

Annual subscription rate:
* **Print + Digital** 120 euro (Air mail surcharge is included)
*__Digital__ 60 euro

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Long-Range Air Defence Weapon Systems: The Shield of the Modern Battlefield

The air domain is becoming increasingly contested. Adversaries and peer competitors are intensifying efforts to challenge global security through the enhanced integration of sensors, Command, Control, Communications, and Information (C3I) systems, as well as through the application of sophisticated tactics.

In response, Ground-Based Air and Missile Defence (GBAMD) systems are evolving rapidly. Effective air defence now demands a layered approach—comprising short-, medium-, and long-range systems, deployed either from the ground or maritime platforms. These systems must provide mutual and complementary support, mitigating individual system limitations and enabling robust defence against a full spectrum of threats—from small, slow, low-flying unmanned aerial systems (UASs) to hypersonic ballistic and cruise missiles.

The Role of Long-Range Air Defence

Long-range air defence weapon systems are designed as all-altitude, all-weather platforms capable of countering threats over extended distances. These systems play a critical role in denying enemy forces air superiority and protecting strategic assets and population centres.

Since the advent of military aviation, airpower has been a decisive factor in warfare. Consequently, defending against air threats became a priority for ground forces. Ground-Based Air Defence (GBAD) encompasses a wide array of technologies aimed at neutralising manned aircraft, UAVs, drones, cruise missiles, and ballistic threats.

Understanding GBAD

Unlike airborne defence systems, GBAD systems are operated from land or sea platforms. They include:

- **Kinetic systems** such as missiles and guns.
- **Electronic warfare tools** like jammers to disrupt enemy guidance systems.
- **Passive measures** such as camouflage, decoys, and historically, barrage balloons.

GBAD is often a more economical defence solution than maintaining a full fleet of fighter aircraft. These systems can be deployed long-term and activated only when necessary, offering persistent coverage at relatively lower cost. When deployed in a layered configuration, combining different range capabilities, they provide near-continuous and overlapping protection against aerial threats.

Strategic Value of GBAD

Ground-based air defence has emerged as one of the most critical components of modern military strategy. By denying adversaries control of the skies, GBAD can alter the outcome of engagements and even entire campaigns. However, no single system can counter every threat. Therefore, modern forces rely on a mix of systems to ensure comprehensive coverage.

Major Long-Range Air Defence Systems

1. S-400 Triumf (Russia)

- **Range**: Up to 400 km (40N6 missile)
- **Altitude**: Up to 30 km
- **Targets**: Aircraft, cruise missiles, ballistic missiles
- **Notes**: Highly advanced radar and engagement systems. Exported to India, Turkey, China.

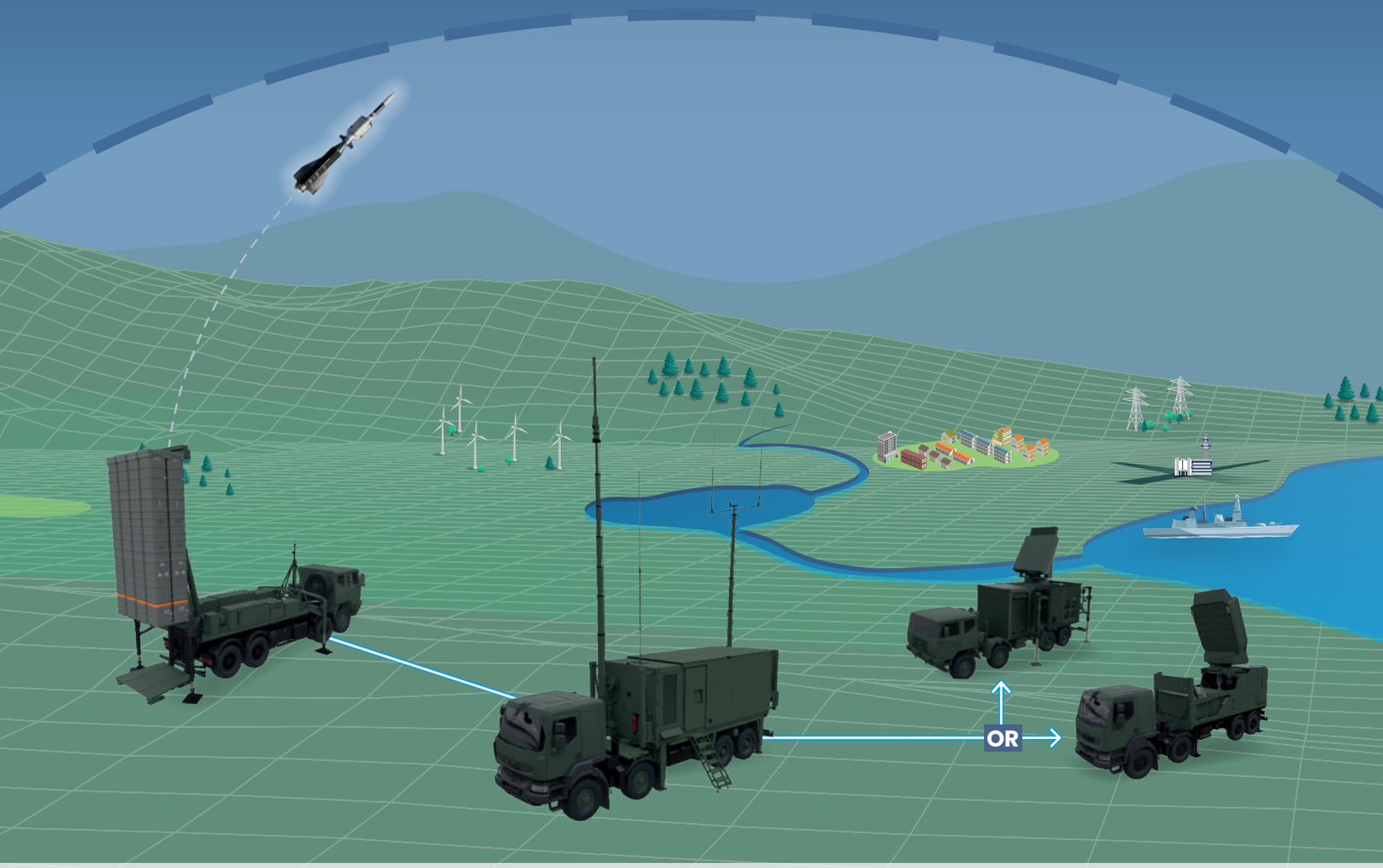
2. Patriot PAC-3 / PAC-2 GEM-T (USA)

- **Range**:
  - PAC-3: ~60–100 km (missiles)
  - PAC-2 GEM-T: ~160 km (aircraft)
- **Altitude**: Up to 24 km
- **Targets**: Tactical ballistic missiles, aircraft, UAVs, cruise missiles
- **Users**: USA, Germany, Japan, Saudi Arabia, South Korea

SAMP/T NG

Global Airspace Sovereignty – Country & Forces Protection

The new **European** Long-Range Ground-Based Air Defense



Range
Detection ≥ 350 km - Interception ≥ 150 km

Mobility
Fast deployment on all kind of roads

Mission-proven
Permanent protection of airspace

Interoperability
Easy to integrate into all types of air defense network - Fitted for IAMD

360° protection
Rotating radar and missile launched vertically

Autonomy
Preserve sovereign employment in operation

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3 SAMP/T NG is the new generation of SAMP/T system that is today in service. SAMP/T NG will be delivered from 2025. SAMP/T NG is designed to protect armed forces and sensitive civil or military sites but also to become a strategic system.

- **Provide a 360-degree protection.**
- Detect further than **350 km and intercept beyond 150 km air-breathing targets.**
- **Detect and intercept maneuvering ballistic missile of range beyond 600 km.**
- Deploy quickly with a limited number of personnel, integrate easily in an air-defense network and being employed intensively with limited

SAMP/T NG battery has four main components:

- Up to **48 Aster missiles** ready to fire.
- One multi-function radar (GF300 or KGM HP).
- One engagement module (battery C2).
- Up to **6 launchers capable of carrying 8 missiles each.**

- **Users**: France, Italy, Singapore, Saudi Arabia

4. Barak ER / Barak MX (Israel)

- **Range**: Up to 150 km (ER variant)
- **Altitude**: Up to 30 km
- **Targets**: Aircraft, missiles, UAVs
- **Notes**: Modular, scalable system architecture
- **Users**: Israel, India (co-developed), Azerbaijan

5. HQ-9 / HQ-22 (China)

- **Range**: Up to 200 km
- **Altitude**: ~30 km
- **Targets**: Aircraft, drones, cruise missiles
- **Notes**: Considered China's equivalent of the S-300/S-400 family

6. David's Sling (Israel)

- **Range**: 70–300 km**Targets**: Medium- to long-range rockets and cruise missiles
- **Notes**: Bridges the gap between Iron Dome and Arrow systems

7. Arrow 2 / Arrow 3 (Israel/USA)

- **Range**: Over 1,000 km (Arrow 3)
- **Altitude**: Exo-atmospheric (space-based intercept)
- **Targets**: Midcourse-phase ballistic missiles
- **Users**: Israel; Germany (Arrow 3 for European Sky Shield)

8. THAAD – Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (USA)

- **Range**: 200+ km
- **Altitude**: Up to 150 km
- **Targets**: Exo-atmospheric ballistic missiles
- **Users**: USA, UAE, Saudi Arabia, South Korea

Key Features of Long-Range Systems

- **Network-Centric Warfare**: Full integration with command-and-control (C2) and radar systems.
- **Mobility**: Most systems are road-mobile for rapid deployment.
- **Intercept Methods**:
  - *Hit-to-Kill*: e.g., THAAD, PAC-3
  - *Proximity-Fuze*: e.g., S-400, older Patriots
- **Layered Defense**: Designed to work in tandem with short- and medium-range systems for maximum protection.

Conclusion

Long-range air defence weapon systems form the backbone of strategic air and missile defence for modern militaries. By combining various systems across multiple platforms, nations can effectively neutralize a wide spectrum of aerial threats and maintain control of their airspace. The future of GBAD lies in interoperability, automation, and adaptability in the face of evolving threats—including hypersonic and swarm drones.

© IAI-Integrated air defense system BARAK MX in operational mode

A New Era for Greek Defense: Innovation, Industry, and Armed Forces Reform

Greek Minister of National Defense, Nikos Dendias, participated in a panel discussion centered on the modernization of the Hellenic Armed Forces, the revitalization of the domestic defense industry, innovation, and the creation of high-level job opportunities.

Dendias emphasized the dual incentives—ideological and practical—for young people to join the Armed Forces. Beyond patriotic duty, he highlighted the opportunities for a technologically advanced and fulfilling career. He pointed out that today's military operates in highly innovative environments, handling advanced systems such as drones and counter-drone technologies, marking a departure from older, physically intensive military models.

Acknowledging issues such as resignations within the ranks, Dendias outlined efforts to retain personnel through financial incentives and system-wide reforms. He stressed improvements in military academies, including infrastructure upgrades—particularly the Hellenic Military Academy, which now offers one of the most advanced academic environments in Europe. Furthermore, reforms aim to close the salary gap between military cadets and their counterparts in other security services.

He also detailed measures to support military families—such as building over 1,000 new military residences annually, establishing nurseries, improving military hospital services, and providing support for children with special needs and veterans. He reiterated the need for an "honest exchange" between the state and service members, noting that past conditions often lacked fairness and that financial support must be adequate for a decent quality of life.

Dendias highlighted the transformative potential of the defense industry for national development. The “Agenda 2030” strategy involves fostering innovation, expanding Greece’s industrial base, and producing specialized, high-tech jobs. He cited the example of the “Kentavros” (Centaur) system—an entirely domestic innovation that costs 40–50% less than foreign alternatives and is tailored to Greece’s specific defense needs.

He discussed a new conscription reform bill under development that will redefine military service, reserve forces, and the National Guard. The goal is to turn conscription into a valuable educational and training opportunity, rather than a burdensome obligation.

On the defense industry, Dendias mentioned efforts to increase Greek participation in defense procurement programs to at least 25%, up from virtually zero, leading to more jobs, state revenue, and technological development. He acknowledged the challenges of attracting skilled professionals to state-run defense firms like HAI (Hellenic Aerospace Industry), but stressed reforms such as performance bonuses and prioritizing state contracts to these companies.

He concluded with a strong emphasis on collective responsibility. Reforming the Armed Forces and defense infrastructure requires not only government action but broad political and societal support. The “Agenda 2030” vision is holistic, aiming to redefine Greece’s defense posture in the 21st century—not through isolated system acquisitions, but through a coherent and strategic transformation of philosophy and structure.

Report: Developments in the Hellenic Navy's Frigate Acquisition Programs

As part of an ongoing modernization effort, the Hellenic Navy is actively engaged in discussions and agreements surrounding the acquisition of new surface combatants to bolster its maritime capabilities. These efforts aim to replace aging vessels, modernizing existing units, enhance interoperability with allied navies, and ensure readiness in an evolving regional security environment. Three major developments have taken shape: the potential acquisition of two Italian FREMM (Bergamini-class) frigates, the expansion of the French FDI (Belharra-class) frigate program including local production in Greece, and the confirmed purchase of a fourth FDI frigate from France by the Greek Defence Minister.

Italian FREMM (Bergamini-Class) Frigates

In recent weeks, Greece and Italy have engaged in advanced discussions regarding the transfer of two FREMM-class frigates from the Italian Navy to the Hellenic Navy. The vessels in question are the **Carlo Bergamini (F590)** and the **Virginio Fasan (F591)**, both of which were commissioned in 2013. The proposed transfer is projected to take place in **2028 and 2029**, subject to agreement finalization and operational requirements.

These FREMM frigates are part of Italy's Carlo Bergamini-class, designed for multiple mission profiles including anti-submarine warfare (ASW), anti-air warfare (AAW), and anti-surface operations. Although they are expected to be delivered in used condition, their operational history and existing capabilities continue to make them viable warships within a modern fleet framework.

The Italian Navy has already made preparations for the decommissioning and transfer timeline. Discussions between military officials from both countries, including a recent port visit by the FREMM frigate *Carlo Margottini* to Piraeus, have served to reinforce diplomatic and operational dialogue. During the visit, Greek defense officials and their Italian counterparts reviewed the ship's operational features and discussed future cooperation.

Italy's proposal also reflects a broader pattern of defense industrial collaboration and strategic outreach, consistent with Rome's growing defense export efforts across Europe.

French FDI Frigate Expansion and Local Construction

In parallel with Italian negotiations, **Naval Group**, France's leading naval shipbuilder, has presented a new proposal to expand Greece's existing FDI (Frégate de Défense et d'Intervention) program. This proposal was formally communicated to Greek defense and political leadership, and it outlines a plan for **local construction** of additional FDI frigates, intended to reinforce both naval capabilities and national industrial capacity.

Under the proposed arrangement, **three more Kimon-class FDI frigates** would be constructed **in Greece**, following the model of the original four units already under contract. The French-built Kimon-class vessels are a customized variant of the FDI frigate platform, tailored to the operational requirements of the Hellenic Navy.

The local construction initiative is planned in partnership with key Greek industrial stakeholders, including **Skaramangas Shipyards** and **METKA**. Naval Group will facilitate technology transfer and infrastructure upgrades, with Greek personnel receiving training at specialized facilities in France such as the **Excellence and Innovation Centre in Lorient and Toulon-Ollioules**.

The objectives of the local construction initiative include:

- Strengthening Greek defense industry capabilities.
- Increasing employment and technical expertise within the Greek industrial base.
- Contributing to European defense autonomy and resilience.

To this end, a **memorandum of understanding (MoU)** has been signed between Naval Group and Skaramangas Shipyards. This agreement paves the way for infrastructure modernization and lays the foundation for sustainable frigate production capabilities in Greece.

The FDI frigates are equipped with advanced combat systems, including **24-32 Aster 30 surface-to-air missiles**, **21-cell RAM (Rolling Airframe Missile) systems**, and state-of-the-art sonar and electronic warfare suites.

© CARLO MARGOTTINI (F-592) frigate

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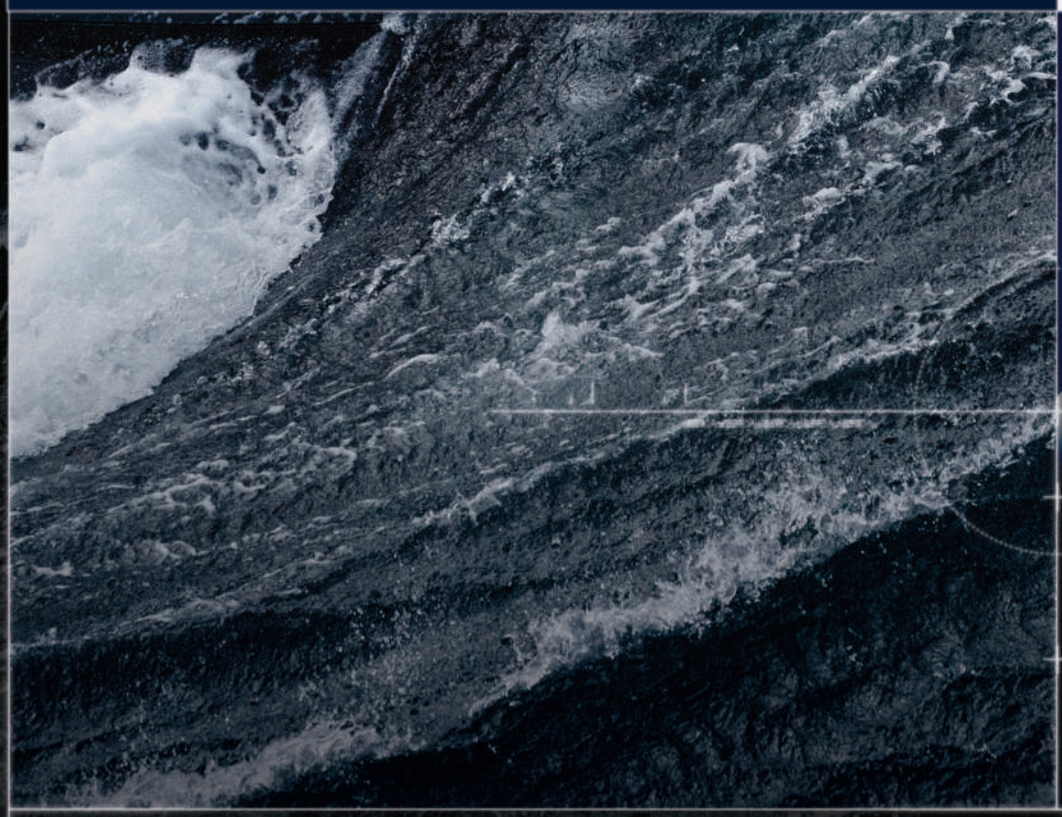

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Acquisition of a Fourth FDI Frigate

Alongside the broader FDI expansion plan, the Hellenic Navy has finalized the procurement of a **fourth FDI frigate**, which will be constructed at **Naval Group's Lorient facility** in France. This follows the initial order of three ships under the same program, all of which are currently under construction. The fourth frigate will be built to the same specifications as the first three, classified under the **Kimon-class** designation in Greek service. These vessels form the future backbone of the Hellenic Navy's surface fleet and represent the centerpiece of the country's naval modernization effort.

The lead ship, **Kimon (F601)**, is already in the fitting-out stage as of May 2024, with progress reported from Lorient. The full four-ship class is expected to achieve **initial operational capability (IOC)** over the next few years, ensuring a smooth transition from older platforms currently in service.

The acquisition was approved in the context of strengthening Greece's strategic defense posture, enhancing its interoperability with allied navies and increasing deterrence capacity in the Aegean and Eastern Mediterranean regions.

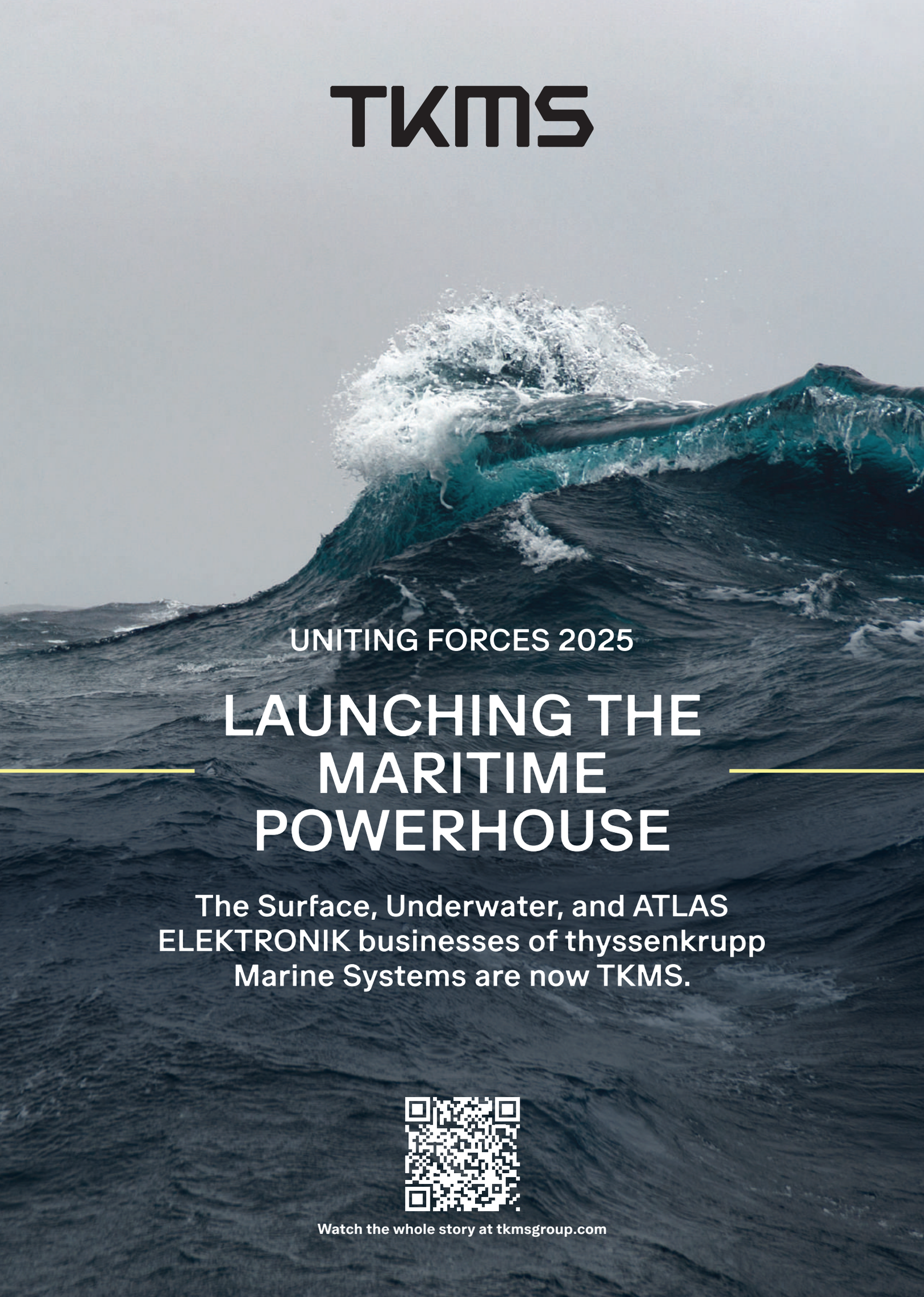
Conclusion

The Hellenic Navy's modernization efforts are advancing on multiple tracks, reflecting a clear intent to update its surface fleet with modern, capable, and interoperable platforms. The three key developments—negotiations for the Italian FREMM-class ships, the French proposal for domestic construction of additional FDI frigates, and the confirmed order for a fourth Belharra-class ship—highlight a multifaceted approach to naval renewal.

Each initiative involves not only military considerations but also political, economic, and industrial dimensions. Discussions are ongoing, and further announcements are expected in the coming months as Greece finalizes its defense planning and procurement priorities.

Together, these programs are set to transform the Hellenic Navy into a more capable and modern naval force, better prepared to fulfill its national security missions and alliance obligations well into the next decade.

© Naval Group - Kimon (F601 frigate)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MEKO Frigates: Electronics and Sensors as the First Step in their Upgrade

The modernization of the Hellenic Navy's four Hydra-class MEKO frigates is finally gaining momentum, with the electronic systems and sensors prioritized as the first phase of the upgrade. Despite bureaucratic delays, final approval from Greece's Government Council for Foreign Affairs and Defence (KYSEA) is expected soon. Once approved, the project will proceed through the General Directorate for Defence Investments and Armaments (GDDIA) and the Hellenic Court of Audit, with contracts anticipated to be signed within 2025.

The modernization program will proceed in phases. A clear decision has been made to separate the upgrade of electronic systems from mechanical work. While electronics are deemed an immediate priority, mechanical upgrades will follow at a later stage, depending on the fleet's operational needs.

The first step of the program focuses on overhauling the frigates' sensors and electronic systems, which are critical for ensuring the ships' continued relevance in a modern multi-threat environment. These upgrades will significantly enhance the operational capabilities of the MEKO frigates.
Thales will carry out the modernization of the electronic systems through a certified Greek company. The work is expected to take place either at the Salamis Naval Base or one of the available Greek shipyards. The final decision on the location will be based on cost-effectiveness, available facilities, and timeline requirements.

One of the most significant additions is the NS-110 4D AESA radar from Thales. This advanced radar has a reported air target detection range of up to 280 kilometers, capable of identifying threats from fighter jets, UAVs, and even high-speed missiles. It is an enhanced version of the earlier NS-100 and can also detect surface targets up to 80 kilometers away. The radar can track and process up to 1,000 targets simultaneously—an enormous leap from the current MEKO radar, which has limited air and sea detection ranges of just 80 and 40 kilometers respectively.

In addition to the NS-110, the outdated STIR fire control radars will be replaced with modern systems capable of tracking high-speed targets and guiding interceptor missiles accurately.

Complementing the new radar is the TACTICOS II Combat Management System (CMS), also from Thales. This upgraded CMS is already in service aboard the Hellenic Navy's Super Vita fast attack craft and is known for its multi-function displays, rapid sensor data processing, and automatic threat prioritization. It directs weapons systems with precision and speed, significantly boosting the MEKO's combat effectiveness.

The upgraded frigates will be armed with ESSM Block II surface-to-air missiles, replacing the older Block I variants. The Block II missiles boast a range exceeding 50 kilometers, utilize multiple guidance modes, and can travel at speeds exceeding Mach 4. Their capabilities align perfectly with the increased performance of the new radar and CMS.

The TACTICOS II CMS will also integrate the KENTAVROS Electronic Warfare System, developed by Greece's Hellenic Aerospace Industry (HAI). This system has already proven successful during Red Sea operations, where MEKO frigates used it to neutralize Houthi drones.

Other planned upgrades include a new electro-optical tracking system, improved communication systems, and the installation of a dual-layer close-in weapon system, potentially a combination of Phalanx and RAM. The frigates' 5-inch Mk45 naval gun is also set for conversion from analog to digital configuration.

Most probably the electronics upgrade will transform how MEKO frigates operate, enabling them to effectively counter multiple threats, particularly aerial ones, in a saturated battlespace such as the confined Aegean Sea. The modernization is seen as a strategic necessity to ensure Greece maintains capable and competitive naval forces in the region.

© Hellenic Navy - HS HYDRA

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Hellenic Air Force, Modernizing for Strategic Edge

The Hellenic Air Force (HAF) has entered a critical phase of modernization and procurement to adapt to a rapidly evolving regional security environment, modernizing aging equipment, and enhancing interoperability with key allies. Greece's defense investments—spanning fifth-generation fighters, tactical transport aircraft, helicopters, early warning systems, and advanced air defenses—signal a robust commitment to maintaining operational readiness and reinforcing its role in NATO's southeastern flank.

F-35 Acquisition: A Leap into the Fifth Generation
At the heart of Greece's air procurement strategy lies its decision to join the F-35 Lightning II program. The U.S. State Department approved a Foreign Military Sale (FMS) of up to 40 F-35A aircraft in January 2024, a deal estimated at €8.6 billion. This marked a strategic shift, aligning the HAF with several other NATO and European air forces transitioning to fifth-generation platforms. Greece signed a Letter of Acceptance (LOA) for the first 20 F-35As on July 25, 2024. Deliveries are scheduled to begin in 2028, with the jets initially stationed in the U.S. for the training of Greek pilots and maintenance personnel. A follow-on order for another 20 aircraft is anticipated, allowing Greece to eventually field two full squadrons.

The F-35 program complements Greece's shift toward a network-centric air combat force, offering stealth, sensor fusion, and enhanced interoperability with allied air forces—a crucial capability as regional tensions in the Eastern Mediterranean persist.

F-16V Upgrades: Keeping the Workhorse Relevant
While preparing for the F-35's arrival, the HAF is actively upgrading its current fleet of F-16C/Ds. Out of over 100 aircraft in service, 84 are undergoing modernization to the F-16V "Viper" configuration. This variant includes AESA radar, upgraded avionics, and improved survivability—effectively extending the combat relevance of the F-16 well into the next decade.

In November 2024, a $160 million engine support package was approved by the U.S., further reinforcing Greece's commitment to keeping the F-16 fleet mission-capable. This dual-path strategy—retaining capable fourth-generation fighters while inducting fifth-generation platforms—ensures operational continuity during the transition.

Rafales and Legacy Fighters
In addition to the F-16s and F-35s, the HAF is operating 24 Dassault Rafale fighters—delivered in batches from 2021 to January 2025. This mix of new and second-hand aircraft adds considerable multirole firepower to the fleet.

With advanced sensors and the ability to carry cutting-edge weapons like the Meteor air-to-air missile, the Rafale gives Greece a technological edge over older regional rivals.

© HAIF

Hellenic Ai Force's receipt of the 23rd from the 24th Rafale fighter jets ordered from the French company Dassault Aviation, marks a critical step in modernizing the Hellenic Air Force. With the deliveries concluding in January 2025, these state-of-the-art Dassault-built aircraft will increase Greece's Rafale fleet to 24 units, stationed at Tanagra Air Base near Athens.

The Rafales, ordered alongside three FDI frigates in March 2022, are set to play a pivotal role in Greece's defense capabilities. Their arrival underscores the nation's commitment to maintaining a technological edge, as they will serve as the most advanced aircraft in the Hellenic Air Force's arsenal until the introduction of 20 US-made F-35s, slated for delivery starting in 2028.

Hellenic Air Force is also evaluating the acquisition of an additional 12 Rafales, which would enable the formation of two tactical wings, each comprising 18 aircraft. This potential expansion reflects a strategic focus on enhancing air superiority and operational readiness in the region.

Meanwhile, the anticipated US approval of Greece's Letter of Acceptance (LOA) for the F-35 program signifies a broader push for diversified and cutting-edge capabilities within the Hellenic Armed Forces.

However, legacy aircraft such as the Mirage 2000-5 and aging McDonnell Douglas F-4 Phantoms still form part of the force structure. Their eventual retirement will free up resources and personnel for newer platforms, particularly as F-35 deliveries begin.

Transport Aircraft: Critical Needs and Stopgap Measures

Greece’s transport fleet has faced persistent readiness issues. Despite having a paper fleet of eight C-27J Spartans and 15 C-130s (B and H variants), only a fraction of these are operational. This has impaired the nation’s ability to respond effectively to emergencies, such as wildfires and regional disaster relief efforts.

Pilot Training: A Modern Approach

In April 2021, Greece partnered with Israel’s Elbit Systems to create the International Flight Training Centre at the HAF’s 120 Air Training Wing in Kalamata. The program includes a modern training pipeline from Beechcraft T-6A Texan II turboprops to Leonardo M-346 jet trainers. The first cadets to complete training on the M-346 graduated in December 2024, signaling a major step forward in pilot quality and readiness.

Airborne Early Warning and Control
The HAF operates four EMB-145H Erieye AEW&C aircraft, which play a vital role in airspace surveillance and battle management. These platforms are scheduled for upgrades to enhance radar capability, communications, and interoperability with NATO assets. AEW&C modernization is a high priority in Greece's defense roadmap.

Air and Missile Defense: Achilles' Shield
Greece is advancing plans to develop a comprehensive integrated air and missile defense system dubbed "Achilles' Shield," with a projected cost of $2 billion. The objective is to replace aging Russian systems and improve defense against aerial threats including drones, cruise missiles, and ballistic missiles.

Discussions are ongoing with Israel and Germany. Diehl Defence is proposing its IRIS-T SLS system to replace Greece's short-range Soviet-era systems (9K33 Osa-M and 9K331 Tor-M1). Meanwhile, Israel Aerospace Industries' Barak MX has emerged as the front-runner to replace Greece's I-HAWK and S-300PMU1 systems.

The Barak ER variant, with its extended range and modern radar integration, could offer a robust long-range defense layer, while the IRIS-T SLS and modernized PATRIOT batteries would form part of a multi-tiered air defense shield.

Greece's interest in acquiring Israeli-made air defense systems highlights its strategic push to bolster national security in the face of evolving regional threats. As part of its goal to develop a multi-layered air defense system, Greece aims to counter both enemy jets and low-level drones. Israel, with its extensive experience and advanced defense technologies, is well-positioned to meet Greece's requirements. Israel's defense industry offers a variety of air defense systems that cater to different threat levels. For example:

- Iron Dome (developed by Rafael Advanced Defense Systems) is a short-range system primarily designed to intercept rockets and small drones. This system is also set to incorporate laser air defenses, enhancing its capabilities.

- David's Sling, also from Rafael, is a medium-range system designed to intercept missiles at longer distances. It has already been sold to Finland and is well-suited for Greece's defense needs.

- The Spyder system, another offering from Rafael, is capable of defending against aircraft and a variety of other aerial threats.

- Arrow, an exoatmospheric defense system developed by Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) in collaboration with the US, is designed for intercepting ballistic missiles at high altitudes. It has been sold to Germany, among others.

- Barak, another air defense system from IAI, provides an additional layer of protection against aerial threats.

- IAI's Elta division also manufactures air defense radars, which are integral to systems like Iron Dome. These radars have been sold to countries such as the Czech Republic and Slovakia.

Other future procurement projects

The Hellenic Air Force plans to expand its arsenal with weapons such as the AIM-120D AMRAAM, AGM-158 JASSM (1,000 km range), Harpoons, Rampage, and SPICE. The Air Force is also exploring options for adding custom systems similar to those integrated by Israel, pending necessary approvals. The Hellenic Air Force is planning to adopt new active interference systems, including active decoys and GPS jammers, to enhance aerial warfare capabilities. Hellenic Airforce is also interest in acquiring four Boeing KC-135 Stratotankers from the U.S. in 2025, requesting that they be transferred directly without downtime in storage. He highlighted the operational benefits of tanker aircraft for longer-range missions, such as recent exercises in India.

Challenges and Strategic Implications

Despite impressive strides, Greece's procurement plans face challenges. Budget constraints, logistics, and the integration of new technologies require careful management. The simultaneous modernization of fighter fleets, transport aircraft, and air defense systems places considerable pressure on personnel and infrastructure.

However, these investments are strategically vital. They improve Greece's deterrence posture against regional adversaries and allow for deeper integration with NATO operations. The acquisition of F-35s, in particular, enhances strategic reach and intelligence-sharing capabilities.

Furthermore, with increasing instability in the Eastern Mediterranean and wider Middle East, a modernized HAF serves as a key pillar in Greece's national security strategy and European defense.

The Hellenic Air Force's modernization program reflects a comprehensive transformation effort aimed at reshaping its airpower for the 21st century. From acquiring fifth-generation fighters and new transport aircraft to enhancing air defenses and pilot training, Greece is making substantial investments in military readiness and resilience.

These moves not only safeguard national interests but also reinforce Greece's standing as a capable NATO ally and a stabilizing force in a volatile region. With continued political support, international cooperation, and sustained investment, HAF is poised to become one of the most advanced air forces in southeastern Europe.

Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis' Presence at the V-BAT Integration Ceremony into the Supreme Military Command of the Interior and Islands

Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis attended the morning ceremony marking the integration of the advanced technology V-BAT unmanned aerial vehicles into the Supreme Military Command of the Interior and Islands (ΑΣΔΕΝ), a donation from the charitable foundation "Athanasios K. Laskaridis."

The new drones have significantly enhanced capabilities, characterized by a high degree of operational flexibility, extended autonomy, and multiple options for mobile handling. They are capable of operating under adverse weather conditions and in environments with jamming, all while maintaining low operational costs. Additionally, the V-BAT UAV is particularly easy to deploy and recover, improving the operational capacity and flexibility of its users in the field. After the presentation of the state-of-the-art V-BAT drones, the Prime Minister delivered the following speech:

“Mr. Minister, Mr. Chiefs, Mr. Thanasis and Mr. Pano Laskaridis, ladies and gentlemen, I am here today first and foremost to express my gratitude to Mr. Thanasis Laskaridis for yet another significant donation he has made to strengthen our Armed Forces.

The system presented today, as you can see, has very important operational capabilities. Sometimes when you watch these videos, you might feel like it’s a scene from a science fiction movie. But in fact, this is the real picture of the operational theater today.

A tremendous technological advancement has been made, especially in the areas of aerial surveillance and target identification—an advancement that clearly cannot leave the Greek Armed Forces indifferent.

Both of these systems, which are being integrated into their capabilities today, significantly upgrade our capacities. They allow us to familiarize ourselves with the most advanced technology available. They enable us to test, quickly in the field, systems that we can later scale up.

And exactly, Mr. Laskaridis, this is the advantage of these donations: that we can quickly acquire such systems, test them in the field, and then decide to what extent we want to further invest in them. Of course, I also want to make a special mention of Mr. Pano Laskaridis, who has consistently supported the Armed Forces, especially the Hellenic Navy.

© MOD

As the Minister mentioned, the Armed Forces are undergoing, I dare say, the most ambitious transformation ever undertaken since the establishment of the modern Greek state. To stay ahead of developments, we must implement this bold "Agenda 2030," which involves not only acquiring modern weapon systems but also a different mindset—a different approach to how the Armed Forces operate in increasingly dynamic theaters of operations, how they become fully familiar with modern technology, and how we can practically upgrade our capabilities.

And of course, as we have said many times with the Minister, what role could the Greek defense industry and domestic added value play in this grand effort? The work being done at ELKAK is truly outstanding and innovative, as it allows us to collaborate with a network of new, emerging defense startups, employing some of the best Greek minds.

We have repeatedly said that it is inconceivable for a country that spends tens of billions of euros on armaments not to be able to develop its own domestic defense industry. And clearly, now that Europe is moving toward increased defense funding and significant intergovernmental cooperation, Greece having such a footprint in innovation in defense gives us a huge comparative advantage.

Finally, allow me to close with a final note from Mr. Thanasis Laskaridis. The history of Greek benefactors is closely tied to supporting the Greek state and the Armed Forces.

Perhaps the most iconic example is our battleship, the “Averof,” which, let’s not forget, was co-financed through a private donation, enabling us to acquire it at the very last moment when other powers were vying for it.

I believe that the example set by the Laskaridis family should serve as a guide for how great Greek entrepreneurs, especially from the shipping sector, can support the Armed Forces with significant contributions. Because these donations have great flexibility and speed, and this, of course, holds immense value for the Armed Forces, which will always face gaps that need to be urgently filled.

So, Mr. Laskaridis, I wish that this donation of yours—this donation, because it’s not the only one—especially the state-of-the-art electronic warfare building we will soon inaugurate, will serve as a guide for others to follow your example. Greece today needs great donors, and I am confident that they will rise to the occasion. Thank you very much.”

The **Minister of National Defense, Nikos Dendias**, noted among other things:

“Our new research center, ELKAK, has already launched four innovative programs for unmanned systems development and will launch two more by the end of the year, incorporating them into a new doctrine and a comprehensive approach. Everything you see and will see are subsystems of this holistic approach called the ‘Achilles Shield.’

But it is with great joy that we in the Armed Forces see that in this immense reform effort—the Prime Minister has stated that it is the biggest reform ever undertaken in the Greek Armed Forces in the history of modern Greece—the Armed Forces are not alone.

In conclusion, I would say that we are a small country, but that does not mean we must be a country that is not strong. There are historical examples of small but extraordinarily strong and successful nations. I believe that with the ongoing reform, we are on the right path.”

Thanasis Laskaridis stated: “The recent war, which is still ongoing in Ukraine, has many lessons regarding the conduct of traditional-type conventional conflicts. I hope, I am confident, that our government, as well as the Armed Forces, are receiving messages of our times, evaluating them, and will act appropriately to protect our national interests and sovereignty.

It is clear that the world is changing in how these crises are managed, and large concentrations, whether of people, tanks, or ships, which are visible from space, are no longer a way of managing military crises. I hope that my small donation will inspire other colleagues to get involved and help.”

Launching of HS FORMION, third FDI frigate for the Hellenic Navy

On Wednesday, June 4, 2025, the Hellenic Minister of National Defence, Mr. Nikos Dendias, attended the official launch ceremony of the frigate "FORMION" at the facilities of the Naval Group shipyard in Lorient, France. The ceremony marked a significant milestone in the Greek Navy's modernization program, as "FORMION" is the third in the series of FDI HN (Belharra-class) frigates being built for the Hellenic Navy.

Minister Dendias was accompanied by the Chief of the Hellenic National Defence General Staff (HNDGS), General Dimitrios Choupis, and the Chief of the Hellenic Navy General Staff, Vice Admiral Dimitrios-Eleftherios Kataras.

His visit began with a formal welcome at the Lann-Bihoué Air Base by Florence Bessy, the Deputy Prefect of Lorient. He then visited the Hellenic Navy Liaison Office in France, where he was briefed by its commander, Captain Christos Michalitsis, on the progress of the frigate construction program.

Following the briefing, Minister Dendias proceeded to the Naval Group's shipyard where he inspected the construction work on the frigate "KIMON," another vessel in the same class. Addressing the crew onboard "KIMON," the Minister expressed his pride and gratitude for their work, stating:

"I am speaking to you from a vessel that is now practically Greek. We haven't raised the flag yet, but we will in the coming months. You know the delivery schedule – this vessel will be officially handed over to the Hellenic Navy within 2025. I was pleased to hear from the captain that the first sea trials went exceptionally well and that there were no issues. Thank you for everything you are doing here. We are proud of you and eagerly await the day when KIMON formally joins the Fleet and strengthens our naval capabilities. Thank you again for your cooperation with Naval Group and the French Navy. General, we are truly proud of the progress being made here."

Later that day, the launch ceremony for the frigate "FORMION" took place – the third vessel in the Belharra-class series, following "KIMON" and "NEARCHOS." These ships represent a key upgrade in the surface combatant capabilities of the Hellenic Navy.

In attendance were prominent French and Greek figures, including Jean-Yves Le Drian, Special Envoy of President Emmanuel Macron for Lebanon and former French

Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs; Florence Parly, former French Minister of Armed Forces; the Greek Ambassador to France, Antonios Alexandridis; Lieutenant General Ioannis Bouras, General Director of the General Directorate for Defence Investments and Armaments

(GDDIA); Rear Admiral Panagiotis Karavas, Director of Naval Programs at HNGS; and numerous executives from Naval Group.

From the French side, notable attendees included Admiral Nicolas Vaujour, Chief of Staff of the French Navy; Alexandre Lahousse, Deputy Director General of the French Defence Procurement Agency (DGA);

Gaël Diaz de Tuesta, Director of International Development at DGA; Pierre-Eric Pommellet, CEO of Naval Group; as well as Marie-Laure Bourgeois, Vincent Martinot-Lagarde, and Véronique Page, Executive Vice Presidents of Naval Group. Local officials from Lorient and various Defence Attachés were also present.

During his visit, Minister Dendias held a bilateral meeting with Jean-Yves Le Drian, with whom he co-signed the 2021 France-Greece Mutual Defence Assistance Agreement while serving as Foreign Minister. Their discussion covered the security situation in Lebanon and the broader Eastern Mediterranean region, as well as defence issues within the European Union framework.

In his ceremonial address, Minister Dendias emphasized the strategic significance of the launch:

“Mr. President and CEO of Naval Group, Chiefs of the Navies, Ladies and Gentlemen, It is both a privilege and an honor to be in Lorient today for the launch of the third FDI-class frigate for the Hellenic Navy.

The ‘FORMION’ – named after a distinguished general of the ancient Athenian Navy – fully embodies our commitment to security, technological innovation, and the strategic partnership between Greece and France.

The launch of ‘FORMION’ is yet another milestone in our nation’s path toward strengthening our naval capabilities. It follows the successful launch of ‘KIMON’ and ‘NEARCHOS,’ reaffirming Greece’s determination to deter aggression and safeguard national sovereignty.

Named after an admiral who led the Athenian fleet to numerous victories, the ‘FORMION’ symbolizes our heritage and our current role. The Hellenic Navy today continues to stand at the frontline of defending Greece’s and Europe’s sovereignty and sovereign rights in the Eastern Mediterranean.

Greece has made strategic investments in alliances and state-to-state cooperation. Our strategic alliance with France, made concrete through the signing of the Mutual Defence Assistance Agreement – which I had the honor to negotiate and sign on behalf of the Mitsotakis government on September 28, 2021 – is a cornerstone of this strategy.”

Minister Dendias’ presence at the event underlined the deepening strategic ties between Greece and France in the field of defence. The FDI HN frigate program not only enhances the operational capacity of the Hellenic Navy but also symbolizes a new era of European defence cooperation based on mutual trust, shared security concerns, and a joint vision for regional stability.

The FDI (Frégate de Défense et d’Intervention) frigates are a new generation of digitalized warships developed by Naval Group. Tailored to meet the needs of modern naval warfare, these frigates offer powerful combat capabilities, including advanced air defense systems, anti-submarine warfare (ASW) sensors, and integrated electronic warfare suites.

Greece has ordered three such frigates, with an option for a fourth. The vessels will be equipped with state-of-the-art weaponry, including Aster 30 missiles, Exocet anti-ship missiles, torpedoes, and a 76mm main gun, ensuring Greece's naval forces remain at the cutting edge of European maritime defence.

The “FORMION,” upon completion of its sea trials and final outfitting, will join the Hellenic Fleet and contribute to Greece’s maritime deterrence and regional presence – particularly in the contested and geopolitically significant waters of the Eastern Mediterranean.

The launch ceremony in Lorient was not just a naval event but also a diplomatic demonstration of solidarity between Greece and France, reaffirming their joint commitment to European defence autonomy and regional security.

© Photos Credit- Naval Group

Naval Group organized the fifth edition of the “R&D Partners Days” with its Hellenic industry, academic and research partners

On May 21st and 22th 2025, Naval Group gathered more than 100 Hellenic companies, academies and research centres in Athens and Thessaloniki for the fifth edition of the “R&D Partners Days”. This annual event aims at promoting cooperation with Hellenic partners and strengthen partnerships in the field of R&D and innovation.

This year, the R&D Partners Days were organized in two different places; in Athens for the fifth time at the French Institute, and at the Center for Research and Technology Hellas (CERTH) in Thessaloniki for the first time, with the support of SEKPY (Association of Hellenic Defence Manufacturers) and HASDIG (Hellenic Aerospace Security & Defense Industries Group).

On this occasion, Captain Sokratos Karamoutas Defence Programs & Principal Contracts Director at the General Directorate for Defense investments and Armament (GDDIA), did the opening speech and highlighted the importance of innovation and R&T cooperation to support the development of Hellenic naval warfare capabilities. He confirmed his support to this Naval Group initiative to foster and enhance fruitful cooperation.

At the French Institute in Athens, the objective was to focus on composite materials with universities and industry partners, and with the Hellenic Naval Academy cadets, as well as to look for new subjects such as drones with ELKAK, the Hellenic centre for defense innovation. At the Centre for Research & Technology Hellas (CERTH), the focus has been put on the important topic of cyber.

Both events have provided new opportunities to identify future cooperation projects between Naval Group and Hellenic partners on the upcoming European Union Calls for proposal next fall and exchange on additional technological fields. Several projects in the frame of the European Union involving Naval Group and Hellenic partners have already given successful results, which pave the way for future collaboration (PANDORA, ECHO, EFFECTOR, MIRICLE, SEA NICE).

Today, many other projects are ongoing: DTHOR for next generation ship monitoring systems, AINCEPTION for AI-based intrusion detection tools in cyber defence operations, and CALIPSO for innovative emission-reducing propulsion solutions. Very fruitful bilateral academic cooperation are also ongoing with the National Technical University of Athens (NTUA) on composites, with the University of Patras and B&T Composites, and with the Hellenic Naval Academy.

On April 30th, three new projects in which Naval Group and several Hellenic partners are cooperating have been selected by the European Commission: Citadel, a project on cyber defense technology, Nereus (smart system of systems for future European naval platforms), and Battleverse (AI-driven scenario to support mission planning and execution).

IANUS TECHNOLOGIES

Mission-Driven Digital Superiority for Defence and Homeland Security

IANUS PROFILE

IANUS Technologies Ltd is a Cyprus software and innovation company with offices in Athens, focused on the development and deployment of dual-use digital platforms tailored for defence, homeland security, and civil protection missions. At the intersection of national security, cyber resilience, and critical infrastructure protection, IANUS delivers scalable, interoperable solutions that enable real-time operational control and strategic advantage.

Rooted in a strong R&D culture, IANUS has participated in numerous **EU-funded programmes**, including **Horizon Europe**, the **European Defence Fund (EDF),** and **DG HOME**, transforming advanced research outcomes into operational software. With a team of engineers, PhD scientists, and cybersecurity experts, the company combines deep technical insight with domain-specific experience to address the evolving challenges of modern security operations.

PRODUCT PORTFOLIO

IANUS has developed a robust suite of software tools, all designed in-house, that support decision-making, coordination, and threat response in high-stakes environments.

- **MAESTRO**

An advanced Command, Control & Information (C2I) platform enabling situational awareness and multi-agency coordination across defence, homeland security, and civil protection operations. Built for real-time deployment on the battlefield, in command centers, or in hybrid environments, MAESTRO fuses geospatial intelligence, secure communications, and AI-based decision support.

- **REACT**

A web-based platform for real-time detection and mitigation of CBRN-E threats. REACT integrates with wearable sensors and tactical systems, offering live heatmaps, threat modeling, and secure communication to support crisis readiness and coordinated field response.

- **SERVE**

A cyber-physical vulnerability assessment platform designed to safeguard strategic defence and critical infrastructure sites. SERVE evaluates physical and cyber risks in parallel, leveraging AI and NATO-compliant methodologies to enhance resilience against both deliberate attacks and climate-related disruptions.

- **GeoVision**

A real-time GIS intelligence tool supporting asset tracking, infrastructure monitoring, and dynamic field coordination. Designed for defence operations, emergency response, and smart security environments, GeoVision delivers a geospatial edge to situational planning and mission execution.

- **GrantEase**

A cloud-based SaaS platform for the financial and administrative management of EU research projects. GrantEase helps organizations automate timesheets, travel claims, and expense tracking—reducing manual errors and streamlining compliance for public entities, universities, and SMEs.

- **MAESTRO4Police & COP**

Specialized solutions for municipal and national police agencies, offering incident management, crime heat mapping, and digital reporting tools. These platforms boost visibility and resource planning across urban and semi-urban law enforcement operations.

STRATEGIC POSITIONING

IANUS is committed to delivering secure, mission-driven digital capabilities that align with Europe's strategic autonomy goals. Its platforms are:

- **Field-proven** and interoperable with existing defence ecosystems
- **Aligned** with ISO 27001, NATO standards, and national cybersecurity protocols
- **Scalable** across civil-military domains and multi-actor operations
- **AI-enabled** for advanced analysis, prediction, and decision support

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

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

Defence Minister Nikos Dendias Participates in NATO Defence Ministers Meeting

©MOD

On 5 June 2025, the Minister of National Defence, Nikos Dendias, participated in the NATO Defence Ministers Meeting held in Brussels.

Key issues discussed included the increase of NATO defence expenditures, the adoption of new capability targets for the Alliance, and preparations for the upcoming NATO Summit scheduled to take place in The Hague on June 24–25, 2025.

The meeting also reviewed the current status of allied operations and missions such as KFOR (Kosovo Force) and NMI (NATO Mission in Iraq). Additional topics included strengthening the defence industry by leveraging technology and innovation and expanding the Alliance's industrial base.

In this context, Minister Dendias briefed his counterparts on Greece's "Agenda 2030," the ongoing reform of the Hellenic Armed Forces, and efforts to enhance the Greek defence industry's role in the development and production of weapons systems.The situation in Ukraine was also a major topic of discussion.

On the sidelines of the meeting, Mr. Dendias held a bilateral meeting with his Italian counterpart, Guido Crosetto, during which they discussed defence cooperation between Greece and Italy, as well as progress in negotiations concerning the acquisition of FREMM-type frigates.

Participation of the Chief of the Hellenic National Defence General Staff in the 18th Balkan Countries Chiefs of Defence Conference

From Tuesday 27 to Wednesday 28 May 2025, the Chief of the Hellenic National Defense General Staff (HNDGS), General Dimitrios CHOUPIS, participated in the 18th Balkan Countries Chiefs of Defence Conference, held in Constantinople.

©HNDGS

During his visit in Constantinople, the Chief of the HNDGS met with the Consul General of Greece, Mr. Konstantinos KOUTRAS, on Tuesday, May 27, 2025, with whom he discussed developments at regional and international level.

He then went to the Ecumenical Patriarchate where he was received by His Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Mr. Bartholomew and discussed issues of mutual interest.

The participants of the conference were welcomed by the Chief of the Turkish Armed Forces, General Metin GÜRAK, followed by a speech by the Vice President of the Republic of Türkiye, Mr. Cevdet YILMAZ.

During the conference, the annual reports of the working groups, issues related to opportunities for cooperation between the armed forces of the Balkan countries, defence and security challenges in the Balkans and the wider region, as well as the evolving modern operational environment and the changes it brings about, were discussed.

Next year, Greece will take over the hosting of this Conference.

HELLENIC ARMED FORCES ARMAMENT PROGRAMS

GENERAL

Signing of the Contract and Framework Agreement FOS for the "Radio Target System Improvement" Program

On May 9, 2025, Contract No. 005A/2025 and Framework Agreement FOS No. 006A/2025 concerning the "Radio Target System Improvement" program were signed between the General Directorate for Defense Investments and Armaments (GDDIA) and the German company Plath GmbH & Co. KG.

HELLENIC ARMY

M113 armored personnel carriers' modernization

The Hellenic Army has under consideration a plan to modernize a number of its fleet of M113 armored personnel carriers. The potential modernization program will probably upgrade over 500 M113s with remote-controlled 30mm cannons, enhanced armor, advanced sensors, communication systems, and a new propulsion system. While the M113 remains inferior in firepower and protection compared to modern infantry fighting vehicles, the upgrades will improve its battlefield effectiveness and allow for the deployment of a larger number of updated vehicles.

Military Trucks

The Greek company Metlen announced that it had signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Italy's Iveco Defence Vehicles (IDV) regarding their joint co-operation to provide military vehicles for the Greek army, navy, and air force. The upcoming program aims to renew the Hellenic Armed Forces' fleet of military trucks.

HELLENIC AIR FORCE

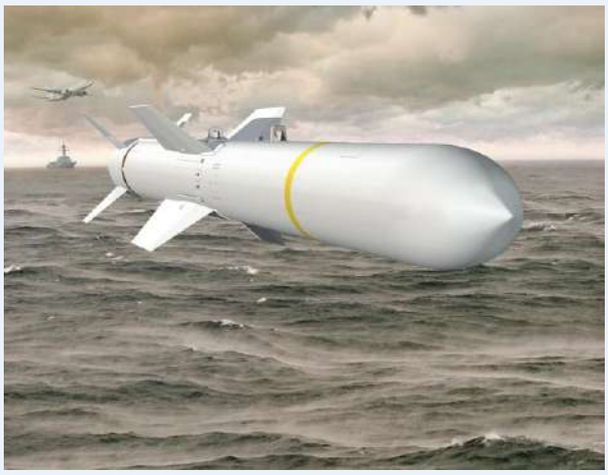
F-35 integrations efforts

Lockheed Martin Aeronautics Co., Fort Worth, Texas, is awarded a $17,192,439 cost-plus-fixed-fee, firm-fixed-price contract to provide engineering and technical support, program management, non-recurring unique requirements, and training in support of integration efforts for the government for Greece as an F-35 Foreign Military Sales (FMS) customer. Work will be performed in Fort Worth, Texas (60%); Orlando, Florida (18%); Greenville, South Carolina (11%); El Segundo, California (5%); Lancashire, United Kingdom (4%); and Baltimore, Maryland (2%), and is expected to be completed in May 2028. FMS customer funds in the amount of $17,192,439 will be obligated at the time of award, none of which will expire at the end of the current fiscal year.

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

BOEING

On 23 May 2025, a meeting was held at the Hellenic Air Force General Staff with representatives from the US company BOEING. The purpose of the meeting was for the company to present the capabilities of the AGM-84L Blk-II HARPOON.



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Harpoon Block II features an autonomous, all-weather, over-the-horizon strike capability. It is an ideal weapon for both anti-ship and land-strike missions. These versatile weapons can be launched from aircraft, ships, submarines or by mobile coastal defense vehicles.

Harpoon Block II is a proven weapon system that can accurately locate and hit a variety of targets using its global positioning system aided inertial navigation. Its 500-pound blast fragmentation warhead delivers lethal firepower against:

- Ships at sea (littorals and open ocean)
- Coastal defense sites
- Surface-to-air missile sites
- Exposed aircraft
- Industrial facilities
- Ships in crowded ports

Boeing has been building and upgrading the Harpoon for over 40 years. Harpoon Block II missiles are used by 30 international allies. More than 600 ships, 180 submarines, 12 different types of aircraft and land-based launch vehicles carry Harpoon missiles today.

NATO

NATO Defence Ministers agree new capability targets to strengthen the Alliance

On Thursday, June 5, 2025, NATO Defense Ministers met in Brussels. Discussions focused on increasing NATO defense spending and adopting new Capability Targets. Preparations for the upcoming NATO Summit in The Hague (June 24–25) were also on the agenda. Ministers reviewed ongoing allied missions, including KFOR and NMI, and emphasized strengthening the defense industry through technology, innovation, and industrial expansion. NATO Defence Ministers agreed an ambitious new set of capability targets to build a stronger, fairer, more lethal Alliance, and ensure warfighting readiness for years to come.

© NATO

At the closing press conference NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte confirmed that the targets "describe exactly what capabilities Allies need to invest in over the coming years… to keep our deterrence and defence strong and our one billion people safe." The targets are the basis for a new defence investment plan which is expected to be approved at the NATO Summit in The Hague. The proposal calls for Allies to invest 5% of GDP in defence, including 3.5% on core defence spending, as well as 1.5% of GDP per year on defence and security-related investment, including in infrastructure and resilience.

The NATO-Ukraine Council also met on Thursday, with Allies joined by the Ukrainian Minister of Defence Rustem Umerov, and the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Kaja Kallas. Following the meeting, the Secretary General reaffirmed Allied support for Ukraine noting that this year alone, Allies had pledged over 20 billion euros in additional security assistance for Ukraine. He also welcomed the additional support Allies had pledged at the meeting of the Ukraine Defence Contact Group on Wednesday.

In the final meeting of the Ministerial, Allies took part in a regular meeting of NATO's Nuclear Planning Group. "Nuclear deterrence remains the cornerstone of Alliance security," noted the Secretary General, "and we will ensure that NATO's nuclear capability remains strong and effective, in order to preserve peace, prevent coercion and deter aggression."

NATO Allies further strengthened their ability to train aircrews and use cross-border airspace for exercises.

At a signing ceremony held on the margins of the NATO Defence Ministers' meeting, a number of Allies joined two established initiatives. Canada, Denmark, Norway and Poland joined the NATO Flight Training Europe (NFTE) High-Visibility multinational initiative, which aims to ensure the delivery of state-of-the-art pilot training across Europe in a cost-efficient and interoperable manner.

Since its launch in 2020, eight military campuses have been fully accredited for NFTE training and six are undergoing certification. NFTE training includes basic, intermediate and advanced training for fighter jet, helicopter and transport pilots, as well as personnel who remotely pilot uncrewed aircraft. On 5 March the first group of students graduated in Remotely Piloted Aircraft System training at the NFTE campus in Waddington, United Kingdom.

Canada, Croatia, Czechia, Luxembourg, Montenegro, the Netherlands and Slovenia agreed to join the 21 other Allies that participate in the Cross-Border Airspace Cooperation initiative. Launched in 2023, this initiative aims to develop larger airspace solutions, including cross-border, that are better suited to accommodate training events for modern air capabilities and systems.

ESDP

EU agrees 11 more PESCO projects, looks to next phase

European Union Member States have approved 11 new projects under the Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO) in the sixth and final wave of the initial phase of the framework. These projects, which involve 19 Member States, aim to strengthen defence cooperation and capability development. The sixth wave of PESCO projects cover a wide range of needs, from broader strategic areas such as air and missile defence and cyber doctrine to more specific applications such as soldier systems and field medical facilities. Member States are also addressing key shortfalls by introducing unmanned aerial systems, improving interoperability through equipment standardization, and boosting protection of vital undersea infrastructure.

More details about new projects coordinated by Germany, Finland, France and Italy are:

Germany (coordinating Member State)

- Joint European Electromagnetic Warfare Convergence Initiative (JEEWCI)
- Substitute for Lead in Infantry Ammunition (SLIA)
- Common Handheld Optronic Interface (CHOI)
- Infantry Navigation without GNSS (InfNav without GNSS)
- Future (unmanned) Air-to-Air Refuelling Capability

- Unmanned Air Transport of Injured Soldiers (UNATIS)

France (coordinating Member State)
- Modular Seabed Vessel (MSV)
- Medical Treatment Facility Role 2 Forward – Capability Development (MTF R2F–CD)

Finland (coordinating Member State)
- Quantum Enablers for Strategic Advantage (QUEST)

Italy (coordinating Member State)
- Directed Energy Systems (DES)
- Next Generation Dismounted Soldier System (NGDSS)

From 2018 to 2025, PESCO generated a total of 83 collaborative projects spanning the five operational domains of land, maritime, air, space and cyber. Eight have now closed, with 75 still ongoing. The projects have ranged from protecting space assets to monitoring undersea infrastructure. The European Defence Agency (EDA), which is part of the PESCO secretariat, believes the projects encourage a shared, intergovernmental approach to defence planning. All 26 participating Member States have taken part in various initiatives, working together to address capability gaps and fulfil their more binding commitments set out in PESCO.

Compared to when the framework was first launched in December 2017, the second phase of PESCO (2025–2029) will take place in a much more dynamic and challenging security environment. Given Russia's war of aggression in Ukraine, there is now an urgent need to close capability gaps, especially those that cannot be met by a single country alone. In response to this, in November 2024, Ministers of Defence signed four letters of intent to work together on key capability areas highlighted in the most recent Coordinated Annual Review on Defence (CARD) report. CARD gives an overview of Member States' defence plans and serves as a basis for deciding potential joint projects.

The letters of intent focused on: Integrated Air and Missile Defence, Electronic Warfare, Loitering Munitions, and the European Combat Vessel. These initiatives, particularly those with a long-term focus, are strong candidates to become future PESCO projects.

Existing tools such as the European Defence Fund (EDF), which co-finances multinational defence projects using money from the EU's long-term budget, will continue to support PESCO projects, while discussions held at the European Council of EU leaders in February 2025 have built political momentum and given clearer direction to the EU's defence ambitions.

Looking ahead, the new projects also consider future defence challenges, such as the impact of quantum technologies and ensuring reliable access to ammunition.
The Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO) is a legally binding initiative within the European Union's Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP). It aims to deepen defence cooperation among participating EU Member States, enhancing the EU's capacity to act as a security provider. All Member States except Malta are part of PESCO.

Participation in PESCO is voluntary but entails binding commitments, including increasing defence spending, harmonizing requirements, and pooling resources in defence equipment acquisition, research, and utilization. EDA, along with the European External Action Service (EEAS) and the EU Military Staff (EUMS), is part of the PESCO secretariat, facilitating project implementation and ensuring coherence with other EU defence initiatives. Through collaborative projects, PESCO seeks to enhance interoperability and effectiveness of forces, strengthen Europe's industrial and technological base, and ultimately increase the overall security of European citizens.

CYPRUS

Participation of the National Guard in Artillery Training Fires in Serbia

https://www.gov.cy/army/news

From May 25 to June 1, 2025, as part of the Bilateral Defense Cooperation Program between the Republic of Cyprus and Serbia, the National Guard participated with personnel from Artillery Units in training fire exercises of 155mm Self-Propelled (S/P) Howitzers "NORA", conducted in Serbia.

The purpose was to train personnel in the tactical and technical fire direction of artillery, as well as in the request and execution of fire missions using this specific type of howitzer, in accordance with established standards.

The participation of the artillery personnel in the training was deemed particularly beneficial, as it provided them with the opportunity to train jointly with corresponding personnel of the Serbian Armed Forces, enhancing interoperability and promoting the exchange of know-how and best practices in the operation of the 155mm S/P Howitzer "NORA". It also demonstrated the

excellent level of relations and military cooperation that has been developed between the Armed Forces of the two countries.

National Joint Tactical Exercise with Troops "NIKITIS-DIMITRA 2025"

From June 2 to 5, 2025, the National Joint Tactical Exercise with Troops “NIKITIS-DIMITRA 2025" was conducted in the land, sea, and airspace of the free territory of Cyprus. The exercise involved the full active-duty personnel of the National Guard, as well as a number of reservists and members of the Territorial Guard.

Also participating were government agencies and services involved in supporting the National Guard, coordinated by the Central Service for Civil Emergency Planning (KYPSEA) of the Ministry of Defence.

The aim of the exercise was the operational training of personnel in decision-making processes and the issuance of orders under conditions of tension, crisis, and operations. At the same time, the effectiveness of operational tools and the mobilization system was evaluated, while the functionality of the logistics support system was also tested. The exercise was designed and executed with an emphasis on operational objectives, free from demonstration obligations or organized observation posts.

The Chief of the National Guard, Lieutenant General Georgios Tsitsikostas, observed various phases of the exercise held at different firing and training ranges. During his visits, he provided guidance and direction and congratulated all personnel for the excellent planning, detailed preparation, and precise and effective execution of the exercise.

He emphasized that the results confirm the high level of training and combat capability of the Units—factors that contribute to the maintenance and enhancement of the National Guard’s operational readiness.

The Minister of Defence, Mr. Vasilis Palmas, also had the opportunity to observe part of the exercise and deliver an address to the participating personnel.

Bosnia and Herzegovina – AW-119Kx Helicopters

On 25 May 2025, the State Department has made a determination approving a possible Foreign Military Sale to Bosnia and Herzegovina of AW-119Kx helicopters and related equipment for an estimated cost of $100 million. The Defense Security Cooperation Agency delivered the required certification notifying Congress of this possible sale Bosnia and Herzegovina has requested to buy AW-119Kx helicopters; qualification and transition training of pilots and maintainers; in-country contractor field service representative support; program management reviews; technical assistance; product support; associated aviation ground support equipment; platform-peculiar ground support equipment; hardware; special tools; test equipment and basic issue items; quality assurance team inspections; inventories; ground run and flight test validation and verification testing; air freight transportation delivery; initial spares, repair and consumable parts; operator maintenance; and technical manuals; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total cost is $100 million.

The proposed sale will support the foreign policy goals and the national security objectives of the United States by improving the security of a partner country that is a force for political stability and economic progress in Europe. The proposed sale will improve the capability of the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina (AFBiH) to meet current and future threats by supporting regional and NATO cooperation exercises, protecting Bosnia and Herzegovinian national security interests in the country’s mountainous and inaccessible terrain. The aircraft will also enable the AFBiH to better support disaster relief, search and rescue, and other humanitarian aid missions in the country, and will also serve for pilot training.,

The principal contractor will be Leonardo Helicopters U.S., AgustaWestland Philadelphia Corporation, located in Philadelphia, PA. At this time, the U.S. Government is not aware of any offset agreement proposed in connection with this potential sale. Any offset agreement will be defined in negotiations between the purchaser and the contractor.

Start of HS Kimon Sea trials, first FDI frigate for the Hellenic Navy

The first FDI frigate for the Hellenic Navy, HS Kimon, started her first sea trials on May 21st in Lorient. The ship capitalized on the experience gained during the sea trials of Amiral Ronarc'hthe first of class for the French Navy.
Developed to be operated by the Hellenic Navy, the FDI HS Kimon has begun her sea trials from the Naval Group site of Lorient, Brittany. The trials will be carefully attended by the Hellenic Navy representatives.

Thanks to the experience gained during the Amiral Ronarc'h sea trials, the trials of HS Kimon will be performed much faster. The first period at sea will be mainly dedicated to test the platform systems including propulsion and navigation systems. The second period at sea, in a few weeks, will be dedicated to Combat systems and endurance at sea.

2025 marks a key milestone for the FDI programme, with sea trials and the upcoming delivery of the first frigate for the Hellenic Navy, along with the imminent launching of the third vessel, HS Formion. By 2026, the Hellenic Navy will operate three first-rank, multi-mission FDI frigates.

An all warfare domain frigate combat ready against current and emerging threats
Designed for first-rank navies aiming at ensuring their sovereignty, the FDI is a combat-ready ship capable of handling current and emerging threats. A multipurpose and resilient high-sea vessel, she will enable the Hellenic Navy to ensure its maritime superiority in the Eastern Mediterranean Sea thanks to her high-level capabilities in all areas of naval combat: anti-air, anti-submarine, anti-ship, and special forces projection, with unique capabilities against asymmetric threats. She also benefits from the latest Thales innovations in radar, sonar and electronic warfare.

Designed and produced using latest-generation digital tools, they are also the first frigates to benefit from an onboard digital architecture that will enable them to adapt continuously to technological and operational developments, enabling them to cope with constantly evolving threats. Her architecture and digital infrastructures guarantee a growth potential ensuring adaptation to future threats throughout her life, with incremental upgrades rather than costly Mid Life Upgrade. The FDI is also natively protected against the cyber threat, with a redundant IT architecture based around two data centres that host, in a virtualised manner, a large proportion of the ship's software. In terms of operational innovation, the FDI is inaugurating the concept of a gateway dedicated to combat asymmetric threats. This system will make it possible to coordinate and lead the fight against small, close air and surface threats.

Strongly armed (MBDA Exocet MM40 B3c anti-surface and Aster anti-air missiles, RAM system, MU90 anti-submarine torpedoes, artillery), the FDI for the Hellenic Navy embarks simultaneously a helicopter and a capacity of unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV). She also benefits from the expertise of Thales, MBDA, and all our other partners and subcontractors.

Technical specifications:

Displacement: 4,500 tons ;
Length: approx. 122 meters ;
Width: 18 meters ;
Maximum speed: 27 knots ;
Aviation facilities: 10-ton class helicopter, VTOL unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV).

Main armaments:

32 Aster missiles developed by MBDA ;
8 Exocet MM40 B3c missiles developed by MBDA ;
RAM missiles ;
76 mm gun ;
4 torpedo tubes with MU 90 torpedoes developed by Naval Group ;
2 decoy launchers with CANTO countermeasures developed by Naval Group.

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Strengthening the Greek defense industry and renewing the army's land capabilities: the ambition of the VBCI PHILOCTETES®

- KNDS France and METLEN entered into a strategic partnership at the start of 2025 for the local production of the VBCI PHILOCTETE®;
- A key driver of Franco-Greek defense cooperation, the program will significantly benefit the country's defense industry;
- PHILOCTETES®, a breakthrough solution with its 40mm remotely operated turret and anti-tank missile launchers, tailored to Greece's operational needs.

Integration of key industrial partners

KNDS France has forged two major partnerships with METLEN and SARACAKIS. METLEN will be responsible for local chassis production — thanks to a technology transfer for aluminum welding — and final integration of the PHILOCTETES® weapon system. SARACAKIS will handle fleet maintenance to ensure the highest level of vehicle availability. Other companies such as MILTECH HELLAS and MEVACO will also contribute to the local supply chain.

With full support from France, the French Procurement Agency (DGA) will provide expertise throughout all phases of quality control, testing, and acceptance, enabling Greece to gain immediate operational capability.

Extended cooperation for a highly European IFV

The PHILOCTETES® program is not only about delivering an infantry fighting vehicle; it also provides a way to strenghten Franco-Greek defense cooperation, both militarily and industrially.

It forms part of broader European-level industrial defense cooperation and aligns with KNDS France's ambitious proposals under the ReArm Europe strategic initiative.

As such, this extended cooperation is not limited to the Greek market: the ambition is to make the Hellenic Republic the birthplace of the program, paving the way for potential exports. All local partners would benefit from future opportunities.

PHILOCTETES®: the advanced evolution of a combat-proven system

PHILOCTETES® refers to the hero of the Trojan War and keeper of Heracles' arrows — essential to the Achaeans in their conquest of Troy. The VBCI PHILOCTETES® combines operational feedback from the French Army (Afghanistan, Mali, Lebanon, Central African Republic…) with the needs expressed by the Hellenic Army. It incorporates the latest advancements in all core combat functions:

- A remotely operated 40mm turret similar to that of JAGUAR,
- An AKERON MP anti-tank missile pod,
- Enhanced all-around protection,
- Optimized ergonomics to ensure long-term operational effectiveness for the onboard infantry squad.

It covers a wide range of threats — from drones and aircraft to light vehicles and main battle tanks. It also comes in several variants: command post, ambulance, recovery vehicle, and a version equipped with Thales' 2R2M mortar. Thus, the VBCI PHILOCTETES® is far more than just an infantry fighting vehicle: it is the most suitable direct-fire platform for Greece's operational environment, ensuring its territorial sovereignty in the Aegean, while standing as a truly European system.

Cyprus Unveils Cutting-Edge Airbus H145M Helicopters

On May 30, 2025, Cyprus showcased four newly delivered Airbus H145M helicopters at its main air base in Paphos, highlighting their advanced capabilities and key role in the modernization of the Cypriot National Guard.

Defense Minister Vassilis Palmas emphasized that the helicopters—already in use by Germany, the U.S., Belgium, Ireland, and Hungary—are cutting-edge, multi-role platforms tailored to meet 21st-century defense needs.

" With feelings of joy and pride, I am present today at the ceremony marking the induction of the new Airbus H145M helicopters into the National Guard.

From the outset, I would like to express my gratitude to all those who contributed to the completion of the procurement contract for this new weapons system acquired by our Armed Forces, which will undoubtedly contribute to enhancing their operational capability. Today, the National Guard is incorporating into its arsenal a modern aircraft that is also acquired and used by contemporary armies such as those of Germany, Hungary, Belgium, Ireland, and the United States.

More than 500 helicopters from the Airbus family are currently operational, with over 8 million flight hours, demonstrating the reliability, availability, and efficiency of this aircraft. This is a multi-role helicopter, designed to adapt and operate in the modern operational environment. It can easily be converted from a light attack helicopter into a platform for special operations, providing the National Guard with a powerful force multiplier.

Of particular importance is the helicopter's ability to integrate into network-centric operations through cooperation with both manned and unmanned systems, enhancing situational and operational awareness as well as response capabilities.

Recognizing that today's battlefield is not only conventional but also networked, multi-domain, and hybrid, the Republic of Cyprus is investing in assets that meet the demands of the evolving security landscape. This new helicopter is a versatile digital tool tailored to the requirements of the 21st century.
Ladies and gentlemen, The modernization of the Air Command with these new helicopters is not an isolated development. It is part of a broader strategic framework that includes the continuous upgrade of the National Guard's equipment and operational capabilities, the training of personnel on new systems suited to the modern battlefield, and Cyprus' active participation in operational exercises in collaboration with modern armed forces of friendly nations.

I assure you that we will continue working in this direction, aiming to strengthen the National Guard on all fronts. Strengthening our defense is the foundation of our country's security and a guarantee for the progress and prosperity of our people."

Airbus executive Daniela Dudek noted that Cyprus' version of the H145M is "even more advanced than what we currently have in Germany." This is due to integrated digital systems, Israeli co-developed avionics, the H-Force weapons suite, and a unique battle management system allowing seamless coordination with ground and air forces—including allied nations. The aircraft also features robust electronic warfare and self-defense systems. Cyprus plans to receive two additional helicopters and may purchase more under the current contract. This procurement is part of Cyprus' broader defense overhaul aimed at phasing out outdated Soviet-era hardware and aligning its military capabilities with NATO and European standards.

IAI & HAI Sign Strategic MOU to Offer the Hellenic Navy Advanced BlueWhale Autonomous Submarine System

On 7 May 2025, during the DEFEA exhibition, IAI (Israel Aerospace Industries) and Hellenic Aerospace Industry (HAI) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to offer IAI's BlueWhale autonomous submarine system to the Hellenic Navy. This unique collaboration between the Hellenic and Israeli Aerospace Industries represents a significant milestone in the mutual defense and business cooperation between the two Nations.

As part of the partnership, HAI will take on a pivotal role in both the production and technological evolution of the BlueWhale autonomous submarine system based on HAI's extensive experience in the design, development and production of complex technological systems. Through the MoU, HAI will gain access to IAI's cutting-edge technology, with opportunities for technology transfer and active involvement in projects of substantial operational significance.

Developed by IAI, BlueWhale is a large uncrewed underwater vehicle measuring 10.9 meters long, 1.12 meters in diameter and weighing 5.5 tons. It can perform a wide range of covert maritime missions, including intelligence-gathering above the sea surface, submarines and underwater target detection, acoustic intelligence collection and search for and detect naval mines on the seabed. The autonomous submarine can perform a significant portion of a crewed submarine's operations for several weeks at minimal cost and maintenance and without risking operators. BlueWhale has been successfully deployed for thousands of diving hours and has demonstrated its effectiveness across multiple mission profiles, including ISR, EW/ESM and MCM.

IAI President and CEO, Boaz Levy: "We are proud to strengthen our partnership with the Hellenic Aerospace Industry through this strategic agreement, further enhancing the defense capabilities of Greece. This collaboration reflects our deep commitment to supporting Greece's defense priorities by offering cutting-edge, operationally proven solutions while fostering local industry, technological independence and long-term regional resilience. Together both nations' Aerospace Industries are expanding the boundaries of maritime intelligence and surveillance to better protect national interests and stability."

© **IAI- Signing ceremony from the right to the left: IAI President and CEO, Boaz Levy and HAI President and CEO Rear Admiral**

HAI's CEO, Rear Admiral (ret.) Alexandros Diakopoulos: "This strategic collaboration marks a step forward in strengthening Greece's undersea defense capabilities. The potential integration and co-production of BlueWhale deepens the bilateral ties and represents a leap toward technological autonomy for our country. The Aegean Sea is characterized by complex geography and the ability to conduct persistent surveillance can ensure rapid response and operational advantage. The deployment of the BlueWhale will offer Hellenic Armed Forces with the advantages of an robust solution that combines anti-submarine warfare, mine countermeasures and intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance capabilities."

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

©**IAI- BlueWhale Autonomous Submarine System**

Horizon Mid-Life Upgrade Program achieves a major milestone for Italian and French nations

Naviris & eurosam have achieved a significant milestone for the Horizon Mid-Life Upgrade Programme, a pivotal initiative for the Italian and the French Navies, with the completion of the first “Critical Design Review” (CDR). This milestone officially marks the transition from the design phase to the production phase of the Program.

Originally delivered between 2009 and 2011, the Horizon-class ships –” Andrea Doria”, “Caio Duilio”, “Forbin”, and “Chevalier Paul”– are set to undergo their midlife upgrade between 2026 and 2030. This upgrade aims to ensure that these vessels will remain equipped with state-of-the-art technology and enhanced capabilities, extending their operational lifespan while preserving and expanding their superior performance.

Awarded in July 2023 by OCCAr[1], acting on behalf of the French and Italian nations, the Horizon Mid-Life Upgrade (HRZ MLU) contract is led by Naviris and eurosam and supported by Fincantieri, Naval Group, and preeminent key partners such as Leonardo, Thales, SiGen, and MBDA.

The HRZ MLU Program addresses key national requirements focusing on the development, production and integration onboard of the Aster missile based PAAMS Anti-Air Warfare (AAW) system and Electronic Warfare Systems (EWS) domains’ systems providing enhanced, new capabilities and performances against the most modern threats, while resolving obsolescence and updating systems to ensure continued reliability and effectiveness.

Following the completion of the System Design Review (SDR) in 2024, and the CDR in April 2025, the integration of new systems is scheduled as follows:

- Italian Navy: Integration on the First of Class ship will begin mid-2026, followed by Follow-on Ship at the end of 2027;
- French Navy: Integration on the First of Class will begin mid-2028, followed by Follow-on Ship at the end of 2029.

All upgrade activities are programmed to be concluded by 2030, hardening the Horizon-class vessels’ position as cutting-edge assets for national defence.

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Rheinmetall presents Battlesuite – new digital platform for interconnected military systems

Modern conflicts are multifunctional, multidimensional and scalable challenges. Rheinmetall therefore proposes a multi-layer approach for interconnected and digitalised combat operations of the future. This integrative concept encompasses human intelligence and creativity as well as artificial intelligence, conventional weapon systems and unmanned systems. A core element for interconnecting all actors and systems is Rheinmetall's new Battlesuite. The new digital platform for networked military systems is designed to enable armed forces to conduct operations with superior effectiveness. Rheinmetall will be presenting its new Battlesuite for the first time at the AFCEA trade exhibition in 2025.

The ability to interconnect conventional weapon systems with unmanned systems creates a synergistic effect that brings together the best of both worlds – the precision and flexibility of unmanned systems and the robustness and versatility of conventional systems. This enables holistic warfare, in which each system complements the respective strengths of the others and relieves the human operator. Rheinmetall's Battlesuite is a core element of this concept. The Battlesuite acts as a central hub for data flow and decision-making, supported by state-of-the-art AI, powerful network architecture and robust cyber security protocols.

The Rheinmetall Battlesuite as a comprehensive solution

The Battlesuite is based on blackned's Tactical Core – basically the operating system – and cleverly expands it with a theoretically infinite number of available or future applications, similar to the app architecture of a smartphone. The Battlesuite integrates both, products developed in-house by Rheinmetall and applications from strategic partners. This combination creates synergies and guarantees a wide range of possible applications to meet specific operational requirements. The result is a modular yet robust infrastructure that is both, forwards-looking and powerful.

The key features of the Battlesuite include:

- Seamless interoperability between heterogeneous systems: Whether old or new, the Rheinmetall solution enables smooth communication.
- Real-time communication in complex scenarios: Improves decision- making for tactical and strategic operations.
- Advanced cyber security mechanisms: A multi-layered approach protects critical data and communication channels. • The highlights of the Rheinmetall solution are:
- Modular architecture: Flexibility to adapt to different systems and requirements. Open architecture enables seamless integration and interoperability with existing and future systems, increasing both the adaptability and longevity of the solution.
- Government-friendly open code: It offers transparency, security and the ability to adapt systems to specific national requirements.

- AI-supported decision-making: Predictive models enable responsive, data-driven decisions. The AI-based platform acts as a tactical data fog that collects, stores, synchronises and presents data to all applications – regardless of individual applications and the current system and network structure.
- Efficient network management: Ensuring seamless communication in combat by integrating tactical radio alongside IP systems, including adaptation to legacy systems and new radio systems to withstand the challenges posed by enemy electronic warfare (EW). This specifically includes support for narrowband transmission systems in the area of highly resilient communications.
- Approved cyber security solution: Rheinmetall's Battlesuite guarantees maximum protection against digital threats. With state-of-the-art encryption technologies and continuous threat analysis, it reliably protects sensitive data and meets the strict security requirements of national and international standards. This approved solution guarantees security both in stationary operation and in mobile deployment scenarios.
- Multi-security domain support: The Rheinmetall solution is designed to operate seamlessly in multi-security domain environments. By integrating isolated security zones and cross-domain communication, it offers a comprehensive security architecture that meets the complex requirements of modern IT infrastructures. Whether in government agencies, critical infrastructure projects or multinational companies—Battlesuite ensures secure and efficiently controlled interaction between different security areas.
- Cost-effectiveness: Another advantage is the cost savings achieved through shared use of the platform. Instead of adapting each system individually, new functions and technologies can be easily integrated

The Rheinmetall Battlesuite enables different users to exchange information in real time, thereby generating a constantly updated picture of the military situation. All units on the battlefield have access to the same information, which significantly improves their decision-making capabilities. More resource-efficient use of existing systems allows decisions to be made faster and with greater precision. Time, materials and personnel are used optimally, while the effectiveness of operations is increased. Digitalisation and networking not only strengthen operational flexibility, but also sustainability in resource planning and utilisation.

EODH-advanced modular upgrade solutions for armored vehicles

At the DEFEA 2025 International Defence Exhibition in Athens, Greek company EODH and its newly established subsidiary EODH DYNAMICS—based in Lakkoma, Halkidiki—showcased a wide range of advanced modular upgrade solutions for armored vehicles. Collaborating with Slovenia's VALHALA, Australia's EOS, and the Belgian-Spanish DUMA, they presented comprehensive upgrade packages for LEOPARD 1, M60 tanks, and armored personnel carriers (APCs) including the M113 and LEONIDAS – 4K 7FA.

A centerpiece of their display was a LEONIDAS APC provided by the Hellenic Army, outfitted with a VALHALA Nimrod 300 remote-controlled turret, armed with a stabilized 30mm ATK MK44 cannon and a launcher for either loitering munitions or Spike LR2 anti-tank missiles. A passive RF drone detection system (RF-HUNTER) by Cypriot company SignalGenerix was also demonstrated. This combination allows for hard-kill counter-drone capability. Next to the vehicle, EODH displayed modular upgrades to the powertrain, including a CAT C7.2 380hp engine, a fully automatic transmission, and an improved steering system. These components are part of the LEONIDAS 300 holistic upgrade package, which aims to convert aging APCs into highly capable IFVs (infantry fighting vehicles) with significantly enhanced firepower, protection, and mobility.

The LEONIDAS 300 upgrade also includes:

- Enhanced ballistic and mine protection (STANAG 4569 Level 5 front armor, floor protection Levels 3a/3b),
- New digital workstations for driver and gunner,
- Electrical systems and open-architecture digital networks for system integration.

EODH also presented a similar modular upgrade concept for the M113A1/A2 APCs, dubbed M113 HEL, sharing many components with the LEONIDAS 300—supporting fleet commonality, cost efficiency, and ease of maintenance.
The ASPIS NG armor suite was highlighted as part of the LEO 1HEL tank upgrade, featuring a new 1000hp powerpack, modern suspension and tracks, digital fire control systems, a new turret rotation mechanism, and full digital integration.

Additional options include a remote weapon station (RWS) on the panoramic commander's periscope, reconnaissance drones, and loitering munitions—giving these legacy tanks next-generation capabilities at a fraction of the cost of a new MBT. During the event, EODH signed a cooperation agreement with EOS Defense Australia to transfer know-how and begin production of RWS units in Greece, for both domestic use and export. A wide array of RWS systems from VALHALA and EOS were exhibited, including:

- The VALHALA Midgard turret (20mm cannon),
- The EOS R400 turret (30mm cannon, coaxial machine gun, JAVELIN/SPIKE launcher compatibility).

Also displayed were GEP's reconnaissance and attack drones, now integrated into EODH's vehicle upgrade proposals.Visitors showed strong interest in actual armor samples with ballistic test results demonstrating protection levels up to STANAG 4569 Level 6.

The most significant development for EODH is the launch of EODH DYNAMICS, focused on upgrading and producing armored vehicles (e.g., the 4x4 OPLITIS), and providing full lifecycle support. New state-of-the-art facilities (10,000 sqm) are under construction to support this expansion.

The EODH booth attracted high-profile delegations, including the President of Cyprus Nikos Christodoulides, Minister of Defence Vasilis Palmas, Lieutenant General Georgios Tsitsikostas (NGC), and senior military and academic representatives from Greece, Cyprus, and NATO allies.

Franco-Cypriot Partnership: Arquus to Deliver 12 SHERPA Station Wagon Equipped with MBDA's AKERON Missile Launcher

The DEFEA exhibition is in full swing in Athens, providing the perfect occasion to highlight Arquus' new partner in Southeastern Europe: Cyprus, with whom ties were solidified last year through the sale of SHERPA vehicles. As part of their strategic partnership, France's Directorate General of Armaments (DGA) and the Cypriot Ministry of Defense have concluded a significant agreement. This agreement marks a new step forward in strengthening defense ties between the two nations. Within this framework, Arquus will provide 12 armored vehicles: SHERPA Station Wagon, specifically adapted for firing the AKERON missile. Arquus will also handle the integration of the weapon system. In DEFEA, the Arquus team had the pleasure of welcoming the Cypriot delegation headed by Anna Aristotelous, the new Defense Permanent Secretary of the Cyprus' Ministry of Defense, together with Panayiotis Symeou, National Director of Armament of Cyprus MoD. A symbolic visit, highlighted by the presentation of the SHERPA SW, displayed on this occasion with MBDA's AKERON missile as well as Hornet RCWS.

Born from a high-level meeting between the President of the Republic of Cyprus, Níkos Christodoulídis, and President Emmanuel Macron, marking a decisive step in Franco-Cypriot relations, this partnership aims to strengthen ties between the two nations in the field of defense. This first contract paves the way for a promising partnership between Cyprus MoD/National Guard and Arquus, with the shared ambition of reinforcing Cyprus' defense industrial capabilities. Arquus is delighted with this initial collaboration with Nicosia, which embodies the company's desire to expand in the region and become a long-term partner. This contract also highlights the industrial partnership between Arquus and MBDA, who have collaborated to deliver a product tailored to Cyprus' specific needs.

The two companies are working together within the framework of the LynkEUs project, a Franco-Belgian-Cypriot consortium aimed at developing beyond-line-of-sight firing capabilities. As part of this effort, AKERON missile test firings were conducted in Cyprus in September2022 against targets located between 2,500 and 3,000 meters away, in both autonomous and collaborative configurations, to test the missile's integration into the SHERPA platform. Both firings hit their targets beyond line of sight, demonstrating the effectiveness of this advanced technology and the strength of European cooperation. The cooperation between the Cypriot Ministry of Defense and Arquus is set to deepen, with plans to modernize the

National Guard's fleet of 4x4 and 6x6 VAB vehicles of the National Gard. This upgrade program will feature a significant localization component by involving companies from Cyprus' defense industry cluster, CARIE (Cyprus Association of Defense Industries) as per the guidelines of Cyprus President Nikos Christodoulidis.

Already a supplier to Greece, Arquus has notably delivered 240 Light Armored Vehicles(VBL) to the Hellenic Army. These vehicles will be fully upgraded in the maintenance work shops of the Greek Army, once again demonstrating Arquus' commitment to the region. Arquus aligns with the new Greek defense policy outlined by Defense Minister Nikos Dendias, who calls for a localization rate of around 25%. In addition to localization, the upgraded VBL would be fitted with Greek-made electronic subsystems, sourced from the Greek defense industry.

© Arquus

HENSOLDT software CERETRON heralds the digital era of land sensor technology

Networked sensors, automated processes, and NATO standards pave the way for a software-defined defence future. With the successful completion of the first release milestone for its CERETRON software, sensor solutions provider HENSOLDT is ushering in a new era in digitally networked sensor technology and automation.

As part of a comprehensive system concept, a software-defined defence runtime environment has been put into operation that seamlessly integrates containerized algorithms into ground-based systems. The system successfully controlled optronic reconnaissance sensors via the standardized HENSOLDT architecture and displayed video streams and algorithm results in near real time.

Supplemented by the company's own object recognition and object-based tracking in a GVA (Generic Vehicle Architecture) -compliant user interface, CERETRON is already demonstrating in this early phase its ability to map simple control sequences just as reliably as complex target detection and reconnaissance processes.

“CERETRON not only opens up significant technological advances for us but also creates new perspectives for our business development and future orders,” says Christina Canitz, Head of Division Optronics at HENSOLDT.

Modular software architecture for scalable automation

CERETRON is designed to be gradually expanded into a modular software system that will be continuously enhanced with new functions and interfaces in six-month release cycles.

The next steps include the integration of additional sensor technology, such as the See Through Armour System (SETAS), and the connection to leading battlefield management systems such as “SitaWare” and “Adler”. At the same time, technical conditions are being created that enable flexible distribution of the computing load between central servers, distributed vehicle systems, and directly at the sensor.

Software-defined defence: networking and automation in combat

With CERETRON, HENSOLDT connects sensors, soldiers, and weapons in a continuous battle chain – a paradigm shift toward software-defined defence. The system supports the automated execution of action sequences on sensor platforms, from booting up the sensor suite to assisted close and long-range reconnaissance and post-mission debriefing. Intelligent assistants take over health monitoring, parameterize mission-specific settings, and ensure smart reporting. Automatic object recognition and data fusion from different sensors (image, acoustics, radio, and radar) aggregate data into mission-relevant information. The situation thus determined can be distributed in a data volume-optimized manner even at low bandwidth on the battlefield.

CERETRON thus creates the conditions for early detection and countering of new threats such as drone and missile attacks.

NATO-level interoperability and shared information space

CERETRON complies with important international standards such as NGVA and GVA, which guarantees interoperability with third-party systems. Seamless integration into the Shared Information Space and connection to command-and-control systems such as “FüWES” and “BMS” optimize digitally supported combat operations. Continuous development and platform independence ensure that users are always up to date and can respond flexibly to changing mission requirements.

thyssenkrupp Marine Systems' marine electronics division ATLAS ELEKTRONIK leads innovative GhostPlay@SEA project

- **GhostPlay@SEA creates AI-supported simulation environment for maritime combat scenarios**
- **Consortium of industry and academia develops novel tactical AI solutions for maritime defense**

thyssenkrupp Marine Systems' marine electronics division ATLAS ELEKTRONIK is taking on the principal role in the GhostPlay@SEA research project as consortium leader in the development of new AI tactics for maritime defense. The company is contributing to its extensive expertise in the maritime sector and playing a central part in the development of tactical artificial intelligence (AI) in the maritime defense industry.

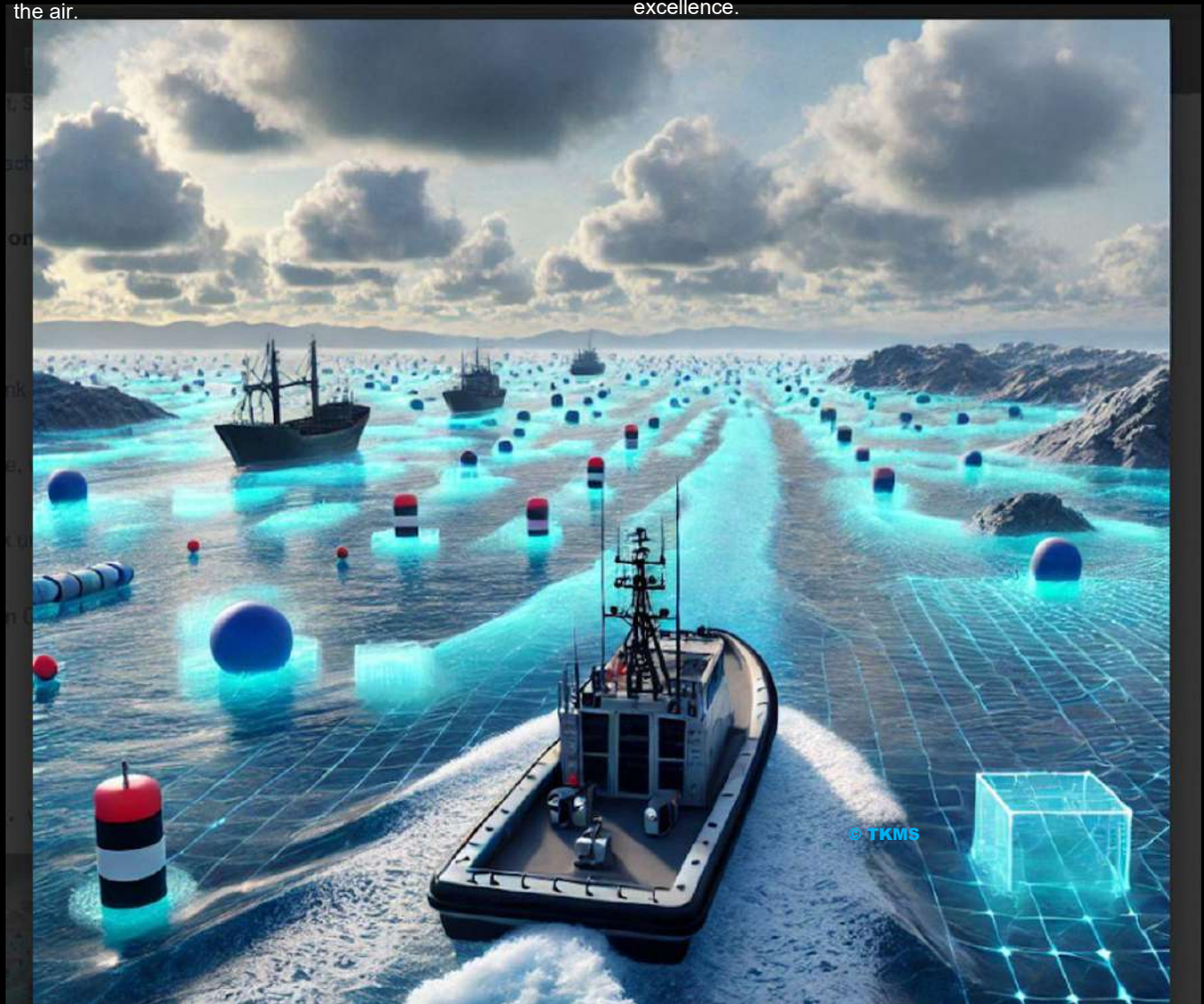
GhostPlay@SEA is a project funded by the Bundeswehr technology program dtec.bw, which builds on the results of the original GhostPlay project. GhostPlay created a so-called 'Defense Metaverse', a high-performance simulation environment for AI-based combat simulations on land and in the air.

This vision is now being expanded to include the maritime dimension. The aim of the project is to explore AI-supported methods in order to develop and evaluate new and proven tactical behavior patterns and decision-making processes for naval warfare. In addition, the transfer of virtually trained tactics to real hardware will be researched and piloted.

Dr Jeronimo Dzaack, Co-Head of Future Tech, explains: "GhostPlay@SEA aims to fundamentally change the way future naval operations are planned and conducted and to further expand the technological leadership of all partners involved. In the virtual environment, highly complex combat situations can be realistically simulated, and optimal tactics can be safely tested."

By using state-of-the-art AI and simulation technologies, future threat scenarios – from drone swarms to autonomous submarines – can be simulated in advance within a risk-free virtual environment. "This makes it possible to test and optimize tactical concepts at an early stage, even before real systems are deployed. The knowledge gained in this way flows directly into the development of new maritime defense technologies," continues Dzaack.

The GhostPlay@SEA consortium includes major players from science and industry, the Helmut Schmidt University / University of the Federal Armed Forces Hamburg, HENSOLDT, 21Strategies, Rheinmetall and Borchert Consulting & Research AG. The project underlines the innovative strength of the German defense industry in the age of digitalization. As a pioneer of such a digital combat training ground, GhostPlay@SEA paves the way for a new era of maritime defense technology and strengthens the future operational capability of the navy through artificial tactical excellence.



thyssenkrupp Marine Systems becomes TKMS – New brand, new claim and new colors

- **Today, on June 4, TKMS is celebrating the launch of the new brand at its Kiel site with thousands of employees and invited guests**
- **TKMS brings together all its business units under the claim "Your Maritime Powerhouse"**
- **Introduction of the new brand is another important milestone towards becoming a separate company**

thyssenkrupp Marine Systems, one of the world's leading enterprises in the naval industry, is celebrating the start of a new phase in the company's development with the launch of a new brand. From now on, it will operate under the new brand name TKMS and the new claim "Your Maritime Powerhouse". The new name and the new brand represent an important milestone along the path to the independent positioning of TKMS.

On June 4, 2025, TKMS is celebrating the introduction of the new brand with a major event in Kiel: Thousands of employees and guests will experience the brand launch live on site and online worldwide. Later in the evening, a drone, light and laser show will immerse the event on the Kiel Fjord in the company's new colors. The rebranding of the TKMS locations will take place in stages: initially at the main locations in Kiel and Bremen, then at the other facilities in Germany and abroad. The companies of the TKMS Group will be renamed accordingly under the new umbrella brand.

Oliver Burkhard, CEO of TKMS, declared: "Our new brand identity helps us to be perceived even more strongly as an independent company, in line with our plans to be listed on the stock exchange later this year. The abbreviation TKMS, used extensively thus far, is now a separate brand that combines our tradition, our present and our future. It is bold and stands for technological excellence, precision and clarity. All in line with our claim 'Your Maritime Powerhouse'. TKMS clearly symbolizes the One Company philosophy: As an integrated systems house, we are the only German naval company to unite all maritime fields under one roof. Not only do we have a long tradition of technical excellence, we also have a very pleasing track record – not least due to the numerous orders we have received in recent months. This spurs us on and we will continue to strengthen our leading role."

The short, concise name of the TKMS brand stands for itself. In this way, an internally and externally established abbreviation has now become an independent company name and brand profile. The new color spectrum is derived from the colors of submarines (black, anthracite), surface vessels (gray) the rank insignia of naval uniforms and steel production (yellow). This makes the new TKMS brand identity very different from the previous blue color scheme, which is also widely used in the maritime defense industry.

A new brand architecture also supports the company's consistent repositioning in terms of communication and ensures a clear structure: The operating units – surface vessels and submarines, the electronics and software solutions of ATLAS ELEKTRONIK and the civilian division NXTGEN – are therefore subordinated to the TKMS umbrella brand in the sense of a common brand identity. "It is sound and opportune that we increasingly speak with one voice to our customers and business partners and are visually perceived as a strong unified entity. Of course, this also applies especially to our employees," explained Oliver Burkhard.

TKMS is consistently pursuing its positioning as a separate company. This is to be completed by the end of the year as part of a spin-off of a minority stake in TKMS to the shareholders of tkAG. The company is on its way to independence with a very well-filled order book: Following the order for four additional Type212CD submarines for the Federal Republic of Germany, the award of the contract for the construction of the new 'Polarstern' for the Alfred Wegener Institute and the recent signing of a contract for the follow-up order of two submarines for Singapore, the order book has now risen to around €18 billion.

TKMS is one of the world's leading naval companies with more than 8,000 employees at three shipyards in Kiel, Wismar and Itajaí (Brazil), and with locations worldwide. The company is active as a systems supplier for submarines and naval surface vessels as well as for maritime electronics and security technologies. Around 3,300 employees work at the Kiel site, making it the largest shipyard location in Germany. 185 years of history and the constant striving for improvement allow the company to set new standards time and time again. TKMS offers its customers worldwide tailored solutions to meet the highly complex challenges of a changing world. The driving forces behind this innovative energy are the company's employees, who shape the future of TKMS with passion and commitment every day.

RAFAEL Makes History: World's First Combat-Proven Laser Interceptions Reveale

During the Swords of Iron War, the Israel Ministry of Defense (IMOD) Directorate of Defense Research & Development (DDR&D), the Israeli Air Force (IAF), and RAFAEL Advanced Defense Systems executed an accelerated development program to deploy revolutionary interception systems. As a result of this initiative, soldiers from the IAF Aerial Defense Array operated high-power laser system prototypes in the field, successfully intercepting scores of enemy threats.

These systems are based on technological breakthroughs developed over decades at RAFAEL, in close cooperation with the R&D Division of the DDR&D.

The deployed laser systems are part of RAFAEL's portfolio of directed energy weapon systems, developed in collaboration with the IMOD, and complement the more powerful IRON BEAMTM system, currently under development, which is expected to be delivered to the IDF later this year.

Throughout the current war, the IAF, including its Aerial Defense Array soldiers, studied and deployed the laser systems in the field, achieving outstanding interception rates that saved civilian lives and protected national assets.

Head of the DDR&D, Brig. Gen. (Ret.) Dr. Daniel Gold: "The State of Israel is the first in the world to demonstrate large-scale operational laser interception capabilities. For years, the Ministry's DDR&D has been leading, together with defense industries and startups, the development of high-power laser technology. Our vision for deploying laser weapons was realized during the war with tremendous technological and operational success. IDF combat units displayed boldness in integrating and carrying out the first successful operational deployments of the systems, and the lessons learned will be applied as we deploy more operational laser systems. Laser interception systems will provide an additional layer within Israel's multi-tiered air defense array, which has been meticulously developed through the tireless efforts of the defense industries and Israel's exceptional human capital. We will continue to advance this technology and deliver world-leading systems and capabilities to the IDF, turning vision into security in air, sea, land, and across every dimension."

Head of the DDR&D R&D Division, Brig. Gen. Yehuda Elmakayes: "During the war, we deployed several high-power laser system prototypes, resulting in significant achievements, culminating in the world's first successful high-power laser interceptions on the battlefield. Throughout this period, we gained substantial experience in optimizing and operating laser technologies in the field. We are currently integrating these insights into the systems under development, while expanding the range of laser-based systems to protect Israeli civilians and IDF forces."

RAFAEL Chairman, Dr. Yuval Steinitz: "Israel is the first country in the world to transform high-power laser technology into a fully operational system – and to execute actual combat interceptions. We are extremely proud of RAFAEL's achievement in leading this operational and technological breakthrough. Based on its unique development of adaptive optics, RAFAEL's IRON BEAM system will undoubtedly be a game-changer with an unprecedented impact on the modern battlefield."

*RAFAEL CEO, Yoav Tourgeman: * "RAFAEL is leading the energy weapon revolution, with operational laser systems among the most advanced of their kind worldwide. The ingenuity and boldness of Rafael's top scientists and the company's massive investment in R&D have resulted in a monumental operational and technological accomplishment. Rafael's defense and strike systems have proven their effectiveness on the battlefield, making a meaningful contribution to Israel's national security, particularly during the current war. Later this year, we will deliver the first IRON BEAM system from RAFAEL's production lines to the IMOD. This system will fundamentally change the defense equation by enabling fast, precise, cost-effective interceptions, unmatched by any existing system.

Brig. Gen. G., Head of the IAF's Aerial Defense Array: "The initial operational successes of our laser systems against numerous aerial threats and munitions during this conflict represent a significant achievement for Israel—showcasing both the innovative capabilities of our defense industries and the exceptional adaptability of our Air Force personnel, especially the Aerial Defense Array soldiers who have integrated and deployed these cutting-edge systems during combat. This breakthrough reflects the dedication of countless individuals—brilliant minds committed to protecting our homeland."

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DEFEA 2025 was an absolute success

A Landmark Event in European Defence

DEFEA – Defence Exhibition Athens 2025, held from May 6 to May 8, 2025, at Metropolitan Expo, concluded with absolute success, establishing itself as one of the largest international defence exhibitions in Europe. This landmark event brought together global defence players and industry leaders from Europe, North America, Africa, Central and Eastern Asia, and the Middle East, gaining praise from official delegations, high-level attendees and exhibitors representing over 90 nations, marking a significant milestone for the global defence sector. The exhibition showcased advanced technological innovations and reinforced Greece's strategic importance within NATO and as a key industrial partner in an era of heightened European focus on enhancing defence capabilities.

Unprecedented Global Participation

The event attracted 30.137 visitors from 92 countries who explored state-of-the-art defence and security systems across domains including land, sea, air, space, and cyberspace. A total of 436 exhibitors from 37 countries and 18 national pavilions presented cutting-edge solutions, offering attendees an unparalleled opportunity to engage with the forefront of defence technology. The presence of 106 official delegations from 48 countries, led by 25 Ministers and Deputy Ministers of Defence, General Secretaries, Chiefs of Armed Forces and General Staffs, along with 17 Armaments Directorates and Ambassadors from more than 30 countries.

Strategic Engagements with International Organizations

DEFEA 2025 featured robust participation from key international organizations, including the European Commission and NATO. Senior representatives from the European Commission's Directorate-General for Defence Industry and Space (DG DEFIS), the European Defence Agency (EDA), NATO Support and Procurement Agency (NSPA), and the Organisation for Joint Armament Cooperation (OCCAR) held productive meetings with delegations and industry leaders.

Bilateral and Multilateral Meetings

On the sidelines of DEFEA 2025, the Greek Minister of Defence Mr. Dendias had a cordial meeting with the President of Cyprus and the Minister of Defence of Cyprus, the Armenian Minister of Defence and his counterpart from Cape Verde, as well as the Defence Minister of Hungary. Also present were the UK Deputy Minister of Defence responsible for defence industry matters and the deputy ministers of Philippines, Bulgaria, Italy, Cyprus and Slovakia.

Political and Institutional Presence

Also present were the Secretary General for National Security, the Ministers of Development, Shipping and Island Policy, Digital Policy, Climate Crisis and Civil Protection, Infrastructure and Transport, Deputy Ministers, Political Party leaders and Members of the Hellenic Parliament, Members of the defence committee of the Hellenic Parliament, representatives of foreign diplomatic missions, Defense Attachés from foreign countries and representatives of regional and local government.

Key Conferences and Presentations

A focal point of the exhibition was a series of high-level discussions and presentations organized by prominent organizations, including DG-DEFIS, European Defence Agency (EDA), NATO DIANA accelerator (NCSR Demokritos), the Hellenic Center for Defence Innovation (HCDI), the Hellenic Manufacturers of Defence Materiel Association (SEKPY) and European defence associations.

Global Industry Presence and Matchmaking

The global defence industry was represented at the highest levels, with presidents, CEOs, managing directors, vice presidents, and senior executives from leading companies in attendance. DEFEA 2025 served as a platform for the signing of major industrial cooperation agreements, encompassing autonomous systems for land, air, and sea operations, advanced air defence systems, armoured vehicles, and precision-guided munitions. Beyond these high-level engagements, the event facilitated 492 business-to-business (B2B) matchmaking meetings, expertly coordinated by the PRAXI Network, part of the Enterprise Europe Network.

Greece at the Forefront of Defence

DEFEA – Defence Exhibition Athens 2025 has firmly positioned Greece at the forefront of the international defence landscape, creating substantial opportunities for the growth of the domestic defence industry while enhancing the nation's defence and diplomatic influence. The success of this year's event has laid a strong foundation for an even more expansive and impactful exhibition planned for 2027, promising to further elevate Greece's role in shaping the future of global defence.

DEFEA 2027, will place from 18–20 May 2027 at the Metropolitan Expo in Athens/

MAKDARPOL company is exclusive representative in Greece and Cyprus of many top Polish manufacturing companies, specialising not only in the protection, security and defence systems but to related services too, in order to provide the best solutions to the most demanding users, such as Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Climate Crisis and Civil Protection, Ministry of Citizens Protection. Ministry of Mercantile Marine and Island Policy and Ministry of Transportation.

GDELS unveils new tracked artillery system: NEMESIS

At the International Defence & Security Exhibition FEINDEF in Madrid, General Dynamics European Land Systems (GDELS) together with its partner KNDS has today unveiled the latest innovation in self-propelled artillery: The NEMESIS is an ASCOD-based armored artillery system equipped with the fully automated 155 mm / L52 Artillery Gun Module AGM from KNDS. It unites maximum indirect firepower, a high level of crew protection, and tracked mobility for even the roughest of terrains. Along with the NEMESIS, its wheeled counterpart, the 10x10 PIRANHA AAC, launched in 2024, is also shown at FEINDEF tradeshow for the first time. The concept to combine a proven GDELS platform with KNDS' unmanned AGM has been well proven. 15 years after DONAR, the first unmanned, tracked artillery system demonstrator from both companies has a successor, which guarantees exceptional reliability: NEMESIS. Thanks to the high degree of automatization, NEMESIS can be operated by a crew of two. Due to the ergonomically optimized compartment, the system provides space for an additional crew member and the option of completely unmanned operation.

© GDELS

Its ASCOD platform is powered by a 1100 hp diesel engine and can be fitted with steel or composite rubber tracks. The effective azimuth of the AGM is 360° and together with the highly mobile vehicle platform enable the NEMESIS to “Shoot & Scoot” including firing on the move in every direction. MRSI (Multiple Rounds Simultaneous Impact), a firing range of up to 54/70 km depending on ammunition type, and optional direct targeting further underline the system's unique artillery capabilities. The NEMESIS is the next step in the cooperation between two leading European system houses, which began with the DONAR and continued with the wheeled PIRANHA AAC.

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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