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MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

➔ Greek Defence Minister meeting with his French counterpart



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On Monday 15 November 2021, in the frame of the joint session of EU Foreign Affairs and Defence Ministers, the Minister of National Defence Mr. Nikolaos Panagiotopoulos met in Brussels with the Minister of Defence of the French Republic Ms. Florence Parly. Among other items, the two Ministers discussed defence cooperation issues related to the Strategic Partnership Agreement between Greece and France as well as current armament programs of mutual interest.

➔ Defence Minister Panagiotopoulos met with the British Deputy Minister for Defence Procurement Jeremy Quin



© MOD

On 8 November 2021, the Minister of National Defence Mr. Nikolaos Panagiotopoulos met with the

Deputy Minister for Defence Procurement of the United Kingdom, responsible for the Defence Equipment Plan, Mr. Jeremy Quin. At their meeting,

which was also attended by the Deputy Minister of National Defence Mr. Nikos Hardalias, matters pertaining to the security in the broader region, as well as further enhancement of the bilateral defence cooperation between Greece and the United Kingdom, were discussed.

➔ Greece opposed Spain-Turkey armament deal

The Greek government reacted strongly after Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez agreed with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan to enhance their countries' collaboration in the defence industry.

On 17 November 2021, Sánchez and Erdoğan met in Ankara where the Turkish President announced future armament programs in cooperation with Spain. Erdogan said that Turkey, in cooperation with Spain, built the amphibious assault ship of the Turkish Navy "Anadolu", which can be configured as a light aircraft carrier.

The Turkish President also proposed the construction of an even larger aircraft carrier for his country. "Our goal is to build a large aircraft carrier. And perhaps, we will also enter (cooperation) for a submarine. We will take these steps. There are many things we can do together in the defence industry," Erdoğan said.

Erdoğan added that Spain's stance toward Turkey should be viewed as a "role model" by other EU nations and expressed his satisfaction about the investments of more than 600 Spanish companies in Turkey. "The presence of Spanish bank BBWA is the most concrete sign of confidence in Turkey," he said.

Spain has been opposing Greece's request for EU sanctions against Turkey since the very beginning of the tensions in the Eastern Mediterranean over gas exploration activities. Analysts estimate that Spain does not see France's increasing involvement in the Eastern Mediterranean in positive light.

Sánchez's push for closer ties with Turkey also drew the criticism of the main opposition party in Spain. Pablo Casado, leader of the centre-right People's Party, stressed that his party continues to support the territorial integrity of Greece and Cyprus.

A large, olive-green 8x8 military vehicle, the VBCI T40, is shown in a forest setting. The vehicle is equipped with various sensors, cameras, and a turret. The word "nexter" is visible on the front of the vehicle. The background consists of dense green trees.

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➔ Participation in CNAD and EDA conferences. LOI signing with the Dutch MOD



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In the margins of the NATO Conference of National Armaments Directors (CNAD), which was concluded on the 27th of October, a Letter of Intent (LOI) for the possible transfer of 2 M-class frigates and 6 Mine Counter Measures Vessels to the Hellenic Navy was signed between the GDDIA General Director, Vice Adm. (rtd) Aristeidis Alexopoulos, and his Dutch counterpart, Director of Defence Materiel Organisation (DMO), Vice Admiral Arie Jan de Waard. On the 28th of October the GDDIA General Director took part in the Informal EDA Steering board meeting.

➔ 30th Meeting of the Joint Hellenic-French Committee for Military-Technical Cooperation

The 30th Meeting of the Hellenic-French Committee for Military-Technical Cooperation was held in Athens on 8th and 9th of November 2021. The Hellenic side was represented by GDDIA and General Staff delegation, headed by GDDIA General Director Vice Admiral (Rtd) Aristeidis Alexopoulos, while the French side by a delegation of members of DGA headed by Lt General Thierry CARLIER Director of International Development DGA.

During the meeting, which took place within the frame of promoting and strengthening of the cooperation between the two countries in the Military-Technical field, several issues of common interest were discussed.

At the same time, on November 9, meetings between Greek and French Companies active in the field of Defense Industry were held.

➔ Submarine Commanders Conference NATO 2021



From Monday 20th to Wednesday 22nd September 2021, the NATO Submarine Commanders Conference (SCC 21) took place at the Armed Forces Officers Club (LAED), in Athens, Greece.

The SCC is convened on an annual basis and is conducted by one of the member-states of the Alliance, that operates Submarines. The SCC 21 was hosted by the Hellenic Submarine Command (HELSUBCOM).

The meeting was chaired by Commander of Submarines NATO, Rear Admiral Stephen Mack USN, while an opening address was given by the Deputy Commander of the Hellenic Fleet, Rear Admiral Dimitrios-Eleftherios Kataras HN. Overall, Commanders and Staff members from all 13 NATO submarine operating nations, as well as staff members of the NATO Submarine Command (COMSUBNATO) and the Hellenic Fleet Headquarters, participated. During the meeting, issues of interest to the submarine community, safety issues, future challenges and impending threats in the area of responsibility of the alliance were discussed.

HELLENIC ARMED FORCES ARMAMENT PROGRAMS

■ HELLENIC ARMY

➔ Procurement, upgrades of small arms and ammunition

In response to a relevant question about sustainability of the Hellenic Defence Systems (EAS SA) state owned defence industry, addressed



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by the opposition in the Hellenic Parliament, Defence Minister answered that in cooperation Ministry of Finance doing their best to support the company

The contracts which have been awarded to EAS for supporting the operational needs of the Hellenic Army are the following:

-Upgrade of 122 mm Rockets with its total estimated cost program: € 87,912,500.

-Procurement of 7.62 x 51 mm Cartridges with total estimated cost of the program: € 14,463,876

- Procurement of 1000 Light Machine Guns 5.56 PN MINIMI with total estimated cost of the program: € 10,917,950.

-Upgrade of 500 0.50" caliber Machine Guns into a heavy quick-change barrel, with a total estimated cost of the program: € 2,132,500.

In this regard, for the implementation of the above programs, overall estimated cost is € 115,426,826, will be required in advance corresponding funding, through the procedures provided in the National Defensive Planning.

HELLENIC NAVY

76/62 Ammunition

In response to a relevant question about sustainability of the Hellenic Defence Systems (EAS SA) state owned defence industry, addressed by the opposition in the Hellenic Parliament, Defence Minister answered that the activation procedures are in progress for the procurement of 13,000 76/62mm caliber naval gun ammunition with total estimated cost € 7,870,000, to be implemented through a five-year Framework Agreement, starting in 2022.

HELLENIC AIR FORCE

Availability of transport Aircraft

In response to a relevant question about availability of the Hellenic Air Force transport aircraft, addressed by the opposition in the Hellenic Parliament, Defence Minister answered that in cooperation with the HAIFGS it has been already prepared an action plan to implement depot level maintenance in total five (5) C-130 transport aircrafts, in aircraft maintenance operators abroad, since the Hellenic Aerospace Industry has

exceeded its depot-level maintenance workloads limits.

- Two (2) C-130 transport aircraft will implement the maintenance through NATO Support and Procurement Agency (NSRA)
- Three (3) C-130 transport aircraft will implement the maintenance through intergovernmental agreement (IGA) with Israel.

Furthermore, in the context of the subsequent support of the C-130 transport aircraft is almost to be concluded an intergovernmental agreement with the US for the provision of spare parts and services. Manufacturer company Lockheed Martin will provide spare parts and support services for the maintenance of C-130 aircrafts components and engines.

Hellenic Air Force Training Center in Kalamata

Opposition leader Alexis Tsipras addressed a stern warning to the government not to sign the agreement for the Hellenic Air Force Training Center in Kalamata, speaking in the Plenary Session of the Parliament in the context of SYRIZA's question that accuses the government of a big scandal. "The increase in the initial cost is not due to a suspicion of a scandal but to a change because the bookings and the indexation adjustment are calculated in a specific way and type", replied to the Minister of Defence, Nikos Panagiotopoulos.

On 18 April 2021, Israel and Greece signed their biggest ever defence procurement deal, which Israel said would strengthen political and economic ties between the countries as the two countries' air forces launched a joint exercise.

The agreement includes a \$1.85bn contract for the establishment and operation of a training centre for the Hellenic Air Force by Israeli defence company Elbit Systems.

Under the agreement, Elbit Systems will supply M-346 training aircraft and will maintain the entire training fleet, comprising of M-346 and T-6 training aircraft for a period of approximately 22 years.

In addition, the company will provide its latest advanced Embedded Virtual Avionics (EVA) onboard the training aircraft and deliver networked flight simulators and an array of Ground-Based Training Stations. The contract also includes command and control systems to facilitate effective management of flight training.

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➔ Hellenic Air Force F-16 Crash

On 18 November 2021, the Hellenic Air Force General Staff announced that a F-16 Block 52+ aircraft of the Hellenic Air Force crashed during landing in the military airport of 117th Combat Wing, located in Andravida. The F-16 was safely abandoned on the ground by the pilot. The causes of the crash remain unknown and are still under investigation.

HELLENIC DEFENCE INDUSTRY

➔ EODH SA

On 22 November 2021, a meeting was conducted between the Hellenic Army staff officers and representatives of the Greek company EODH SA. The aim of the meeting was to present through a live demonstration the various configuration of its HOPLITE 4X4 High Mobility Tactical Vehicle wheeled armoured vehicle.

The modular vehicle HOPLITE was designed with a maximum of 12 tons gross weight and a payload of 2 tons and is based on a heavy-duty, mine-resistant frame with an optimized maximum of interior space in the mission cabin. The exchangeable cabin and optimized weight warrants the air transportability and mission-defined use as a major tool of quick response forces.

The vehicle has been designed under NATO STANAGs and EU Regulations and it's capable to work in extreme ambient conditions. The standard cabin features 5 doors and a flat roof, 2, 3 and 4 door variants are available in flat or high roof configurations. The standard variant is configured to seat crew of 8.

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important global partner to the defense market with activities in Greece, Europe and Middle East Countries, providing innovative solutions for specific needs. EODH is a partner in the LEO 2 A6 Production and a major player in the manufacturing and integration of its protection solutions.

➔ 1st Hellenic American Defence and Cybersecurity Conference

On 18 November 2021, the 1st Defence and Cybersecurity Conference between Greek and US companies in the Armed Forces Club was organised by ACEBA with the assistance of the GDDIA. The conference was attended by the Chief of Defence General Constantinos Floros, the US Ambassador Jeffrey P. Pyatt, the GDDIA General Director, the President and Vice-Presidents of ACEBA, the President of the American Hellenic Greek Chamber of Commerce, the Presidents of the Defence Industries Associations SEKPY and HASDIG and a number of American and Greek companies active in the field of Defence Industry

HOMELAND SECURITY

➔ Procurement of a Boat Appropriately Shaped with Sanitary Equipment

In October 2021, the shipyard VIKING NORSAFE LIFE-SAVING EQUIPMENT HELLAS delivered to the Hellenic Coast Guard a Boat Appropriately Shaped with Sanitary Equipment.



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This patrol boat is the second of the five that are expected to be received by the Coast Guard - Hellenic Coast Guard. The other vessels are financed through the National PDE and the Operational Programs of the Ionian Islands Regions, Eastern Macedonia Thrace. The boat is properly configured with sanitary equipment, in order to ensure the coverage of the needs of the Coast Guard - Hellenic Coast Guard of the Attica Region.

The supply of the new boat is necessary to cover the immediate needs of transporting patients with suitable vessels in health units in a very short period of time, in order to receive the necessary health care.

The boat will have modern maritime, mechanical and sanitary equipment, while its length will exceed 11 meters and width 3,4 meters.

It has been built in Greece with specifications prepared by officers of the Coast Guard - Hellenic Coast Guard and the National Emergency Center, so that in addition to covering the operational needs of the Coast Guard - Hellenic Coast Guard and the transport of emergencies (emergencies) E.K.A.B. In addition to the obligations of the contractor falls the provision of training to the crew of each boat as well as the guaranteed operation of this and its equipment for six (06) years or 6.000 operating hours. Source/ www.athina984.gr

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

➔ Lockheed Martin

On 17 November 2021, a meeting was conducted between the HNGS officers and representatives of

the Israeli company Aeronautics. The aim of the meeting was to present the latest update in the company's program for the F-35 fighter.

➔ Rheinmetall

On 2 November 2021, a meeting was held between the Alternate General Manager and executives of the GDDIA and the representatives of the company Rheinmetall Air Defence, at their request. At the meeting issues of common interest were discussed.

➔ Hensoldt France SAS

On 21 October 2021, a meeting was conducted between the HNGS officers and representatives of the French company Hensoldt France SAS. The aim of the meeting was to present the company's IFF system.

➔ ELTA

On 21 October 2021, a meeting was conducted between the HNGS officers and representatives of the Israeli company ELTA Systems Ltd. The aim of the meeting was to present its Multi – Mission Radar and the Electronic Support & Countermeasures (ECM) Training System.

➔ IAI

On 21 October 2021, a meeting was conducted between the HNGS officers and representatives of the Israeli companies IAI and ALTUS LSA. The aim of the meeting was to present the all-weather surface to surface missile, combining long range, precision and lethality.

➔ Aeronautics

On 21 October 2021, a meeting was conducted between the HNGS officers and representatives of the Israeli company Aeronautics. The aim of the meeting was to present the company's proposal for the upgrade of the Hellenic Air Force Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) Pegasus II.

➔ BOEING

On 20 October 2021, a meeting was conducted through videoconferencing between the HAIFGS officers and representatives of the British company BAE. The aim of the meeting was to present company's capability for the support of the Hellenic Air Forces F-16 Block 52+ Advanced fighter aircrafts Head –Up Displays.

A Head-Up Display – often called a HUD – is a see-through display that sits directly in a pilot's line of sight, greatly increasing their situational awareness. The HUD system presents real-time, essential flight information overlaid onto a view of the outside world, allowing pilots to see and digest vital data faster and easier with a 'head-up, eyes-out' approach.

NATO

➔ **NATO Military Committee Discusses NATO'S Deterrence and Defence at SHAPE**

On 8 November 2021, the NATO Military Committee headed down to the Supreme Allied Command Operations for a day of roundtable discussions on defence and deterrence. After a short welcome by General Tod Wolters, the Supreme Allied Commander Europe (SACEUR), the NATO Military Representatives were ushered into their first session of the day dedicated to the Concept for the Deterrence and Defence of the Euro-Atlantic Area (DDA). Alongside NATO's Warfighting Capstone Concept, the DDA is a pillar of the NATO 2030 initiative launched at the Brussels Summit last year. NATO and Nations have been working diligently to develop these unique concepts that not only set out NATO's military priorities, its approach to current and future threats but will also provide a guide to commanders for future security requirements and resources.

"The DDA unites national, regional, and theatre-wide military efforts to a common purpose. It provides nations with a framework to align respective national military deterrence activities in peacetime and, if directed, defend in crisis and conflict... all nested underneath the NATO 2030 initiative," General Wolters said.

Additionally, the Deputy Supreme Allied Commander Europe, General Sir Tim Radford discussed the New Force Model that SHAPE is developing with Nations. "Today NATO is facing complex challenges – assertive authoritarian regimes, terrorism, cyber and missile threats, climate change and disruptive technologies. In response, we are undertaking our biggest adaptation since the Cold War: investing in modern capabilities, adopting new command structures, and raising the readiness and peacetime vigilance activities of our forces," General Radford said.

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The last session of the day focused on the enablement SACEUR's Area of Responsibility and improving NATO's ability to support the deployment and sustainment of Allied forces into, across, and from the entire Alliance territory. This effort builds on improving lines of communications and re-supplying as well as allied military mobility. The Commanders of the Joint Support and Enabling Command, Lieutenant General Jürgen Knappe and the Joint Force Command Norfolk, Vice Admiral Daniel W. Dwyer were present to support the discussions. Both commands declared Full Operational Capability earlier this year and have been fully supporting the Alliance since.

ESDP

➔ **BISON COUNTER live exercise wrapped up**

BISON COUNTER 21, the EDA-supported multinational Counter-IED exercise hosted this year by the Italian Armed Forces in Sardinia, has entered its final stretch with the live exercise drawing to a close today. The event will formally ended on 9 November with a Distinguished Visitors Day. Over the past three weeks, Counter-IED teams - in total some 650 staff - from 10 EU Member States (Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden), as well as Norway and the United States participated in what is today the largest and most relevant EU exercise of the C-IED community. The live part of the exercise saw a wide range of multinational expert teams plan, decide and



© Italian Armed Forces

perform all types of C-IED activities on the ground, based on a fictive but realistic exercise scenario featuring all the ingredients and challenges any national or multinational military operation (EU, NATO, UN, etc.) faces today under real circumstances. All C-IED aspects were involved and represented, from planning in joint task force headquarters, military search, route clearance and weapons intelligence, to combat engineering, Explosive Ordnance Disposal/Improvised Explosive Device Disposal (EOD/IEDD), manual neutralisation techniques and technical exploitation. They were all organised inside one specific multinational C-IED taskforce.

Even though it is too early to draw final operational conclusions from BISON COUNTER 21 - this important part of the exercise will be tackled only in the coming days and weeks - the overall initial assessment of the achievements is more than positive. In other words: BISON COUNTER 21 has clearly delivered on its main objectives which were to exchange and train technical skills, integrate and use available technical enablers at a tactical level and implement the full C-IED operational cycle with a view to improving interoperability and resilience among European and allied C-IED capabilities in their fight against evolving IED threats, both in military and counter-terrorism operations.

“We were happy and proud to act as the host nation of this important exercise for the entire European military community. I think we were successful in delivering a realistic scenario in the way we structured and organised the exercise and in the manner we used the multiple military areas available in Southern Sardinia. We are confident that the lessons we will identify from Bison Counter 21 will be useful in planning and conducting future similar events”, said General Filippo Gabriele, the Italian officer directing the exercise.

As it was the case in previous editions of the exercise (2013 in the Netherlands, 2016 in Sweden), EDA was closely involved in the organisation and running of BISON COUNTER 21 which had integrated several Agency projects such as the Joint Deployable Exploitation and Analysis Laboratory (JDEAL), the European Centre for Manual Neutralisation Capabilities (ECMAN) and the Military Search Capability Building (MSCB).

Going forward, EDA’s role will be even bigger as it is the Agency’s ambition to pursue the series of Bison Counter exercises beyond the 2021 edition in a more structured, comprehensive and coherent manner. An important step in that direction will be the launch, early 2022 by 13 Member States, of a new EDA project (Cat B) which foresees at least three additional editions of Bison Counter in 2023, 2025 and 2027.

The project will also establish a permanent expert team in charge of the planning of the exercises and its subsidiary activities, both at the conceptual and technical level. This means that the joint planning and organisation of future BISON COUNTER exercises will become more centralised and structured under EDA’s auspices in close cooperation, of course, with the future host countries. As a result, this should further enhance the coordination and coherence among all participating C-IED actors at all different levels, from strategy to tactics to operations. Such a more structured approach should also help to better analyse the exercise results and implement a consolidated lessons learned cycle which is essential for moving towards even more sophisticated and interoperable C-IED capabilities in Europe.

CYPRUS

➔ Staff Talks between the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Cyprus and the Ministry of Defence of the United Kingdom

Delegations from the Ministries of Defence of the Republic of Cyprus and the United Kingdom met today in Nicosia, in the framework of the annual Staff Talks in the field of Defence and Security, between the two countries. The meeting was hosted at the premises of the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Cyprus.



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The Republic of Cyprus and the United Kingdom, work closely in the Eastern Mediterranean region, aiming to tackle emerging transnational threats and contribute to regional stability and security. During the consultations, the delegations had the opportunity to review the implementation of their bilateral cooperation program and progress achieved so far.

They also discussed ways to further enhance and expand their military cooperation through the participation in training programs and joint exercises.

In the context of the consultations, the Bilateral Defence Cooperation Program for 2022, was signed. Moreover, the Delegations also had the opportunity to discuss other issues of mutual interest, in regard to regional challenges, emerging and asymmetrical threats.

➔ Visit of Director of SIBAT

On 4 November 2021, took place an official visit of the Director of SIBAT Brigadier General (Res.) Yair Kulas to the Ministry of Defence. In the framework of the visit, a meeting was held with the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Cyprus Mr. Andreas P. Louka, where relations between the two countries in the field of Defence and Security and ways to strengthen cooperation were discussed. In addition, a Contract for the development of a Land Surveillance System, was signed.



TURKEY

➔ 7th Turkey-Spain Intergovernmental Summit



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Speaking at a joint press conference with President of the Government of Spain, Pedro Sanchez, President Erdoğan said: “We as Turkey have displayed our principled attitude and efforts in favor of dialogue and diplomacy with the aim of implementing the positive agenda. Henceforth, the European Union should approach its relations with our country from a strategic perspective and take concrete steps.”

President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan and President Pedro Sánchez of the Government of Spain held a joint press conference following their bilateral meeting and the 7th Turkey-Spain Intergovernmental Summit at the Presidential Complex.

Noting that the Intergovernmental Summit meetings, held since 2009, was the highest platform for discussing the bilateral relations between Turkey and Spain, President Erdoğan said: “During today’s summit, we have decided to define our relations as ‘comprehensive partnership’ in the period ahead. Also, by forming a ‘Summit Follow-up Mechanism,’ we have begun to closely monitor the implementation of the matters we have decided on, and established a framework to plan the new steps we will take.”

Stating that the bilateral trade volume between Turkey and Spain had already reached the numbers of the previous year despite the negative effects of

the COVID-19 pandemic, President Erdoğan said: “However, this does not mean we have achieved our goal of \$20 billion. We have set a goal of \$20 billion, and I believe my dear friend and I will achieve it. We will hold the 2nd meeting of the Turkey-Spain Joint Economy and Trade Committee in the 1st quarter of 2022; and subsequently the Business Forum in June with a wide participation.”

President Erdoğan continued his remarks as follows: “We are pleased to have over 600 Spanish companies investing in Turkey. I once again repeat my call to our Spanish friends to invest more in their reliable partner, Turkey. As you know, our call has already been heeded. The announcements by the Spanish bank, BBVA, are the most concrete indicator of the confidence in Turkey.”

“Turkey and Spain, with their strategic locations at the Eastern and Western ends of Europe, are two NATO allies that are the cornerstone of European security and welfare,” President Erdoğan said. “Spain, with its Patriot systems stationed in Turkey since 2015, has been showing how the allied solidarity is supposed to be. Unfortunately, many European countries withdrew their Patriots that had been deployed here, but Spain did not do that. I would like to take this occasion to thank once again to our Spanish friends. I hope this attitude of Spain will be taken as an example by some of our other allies. We are carrying out numerous projects with Spain, especially in defense industry. Given the potential of our countries, we desire to further deepen our cooperation in this field.”

Noting that he and President Sánchez also discussed the Turkey-EU relations during their meeting, President Erdoğan said: “I thanked him for Spain’s support so far to enhancing Turkey-EU relations. We as Turkey have displayed our principled attitude and efforts in favor of dialogue and diplomacy with the aim of implementing the positive agenda. Henceforth, the European Union should approach its relations with our country from a strategic perspective and take concrete steps. Works to update the Customs Union and to grant visa liberalization to our citizens should commence as soon as possible. Petty calculations of some member countries should not be allowed to undermine the European Union and NATO-EU relations. Turkey and Spain, which guard the borders of NATO and Europe, shoulder major burden regarding irregular migration. I would like to take this occasion to once again underscore the necessity of producing joint policies for fair burden-sharing. I believe it will be beneficial for all parties that Spain continue its precious support to date.”

President Erdoğan ended his remarks as follows: "As architects of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations Project, we attach importance to standing in closer solidarity in order to ensure an atmosphere of peace, stability and prosperity across the world," President Erdoğan said. "This initiative shows the soft power of Turkey and Spain.

I hope the value of the Alliance of Civilizations Initiative will be better appreciated today as the far right rises, racist, Islamophobic and xenophobic acts take place more and more often.

This initiative, whose seed we planted 16 years ago, offers a significant way-out in terms of the challenges our world is faced with today. We fully support High Representative Mr. Moratinos. The Turkish ambassador, appointed to be in charge of the Geneva office, will give a boost to the initiative. We will also speed up the process of our Alliance opening up a regional office in Istanbul."

Following the press conference, President Erdoğan hosted an official dinner at the Presidential Complex in honor of President Pedro Sánchez of the Government of Spain. (source/ <https://www.tccb.gov.tr>)

➡ **Readout of President Biden's Meeting with President Recep Tayyip Erdogan of Turkey**

On 31 October 2021, the US President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. met today with President Recep Tayyip Erdogan of Turkey on the margins of the G20 Summit. President Biden underscored his desire to maintain constructive relations, expand areas of cooperation, and manage our disagreements effectively.

He expressed appreciation for Turkey's nearly two decades of contributions to the NATO mission in Afghanistan. The leaders discussed the political process in Syria, the delivery of humanitarian assistance to Afghans in need, elections in Libya, the situation in the Eastern Mediterranean, and diplomatic efforts in the South Caucasus.

President Biden reaffirmed our defense partnership and Turkey's importance as a NATO Ally but noted U.S. concerns over Turkey's possession of the Russian S-400 missile system. He also emphasized the importance of strong democratic institutions, respect for human rights, and the rule of law for peace and prosperity.

ALBANIA

➡ **Minister Peleshi visits VTCS in Bunavi: New campus for the Armed Forces Academy, ready to welcome "Defender 2023" exercise**



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On 9 November 2021, Defence Minister Niko Peleshi visited the premises of the Vocational Training Center for Soldiers (VCTS) in Bunavi, where he talked to first year students and attended several training hours.

During his speech, Minister Peleshi told the new recruits about the ambitions of the government and the Ministry of Defense for the modernization of the Armed Forces that has first started from the Academy of the Armed Forces.

Mr. Peleshi announced that discussions have already begun with one of top institutions of education such as the West Point Military Academy in the US, from which models, standards and achievements will be adopted also at the FA Academy.

Minister Peleshi also showed the projects that are in function of this academy. "A new campus from the beginning, in an area dedicated to it will start construction from next year. We are ready with the projects, we are ready with the plan and this year's draft budget has given us all the space to build from scratch with a very high European standard the campus, classrooms, hotel and all other infrastructure in support of your activity. We will make the Academy of the Armed Forces a model for other institutions of higher education, therefore, we are opening other dimensions besides the traditional one." - said Mr. Peleshi

■ Modernization of the Hellenic Navy



Hellenic Navy to acquire FDI frigates

On 28 September 2021, Nikólaos Panayotópoulos, the Greek Minister of Defence, Pierre Eric Pommellet, CEO of Naval Group, and Eric Béranger, CEO of MBDA, signed a Memorandum of Understanding to open negotiations to provide the Hellenic Navy (HN) with three Defence and Intervention frigates (FDI HN) and their equipment as well as an optional additional frigate. The FDI HN frigates will be built in the Naval Group shipyard in Lorient, where the second in the series for the French Navy has just entered production. The FDI HN will be an asset of power and sovereignty for Greece. With the FDI HN, the Hellenic Navy will have a state-of-the-art, high-performance surface fleet.

As a first-rank frigate, the FDI HN is a compendium of the best technologies of Naval Group, Thales and MBDA, which will notably supply the ASTER 30 B1 and Exocet MM40 Block 3C missiles. It will be fully interoperable with European and NATO fleets. The FDI will have a length of 122 m, a beam of 17.7 m, and a displacement of 4,460 tons. The ship will have a crew of 110 people as well as an aircrew detachment of approximately 15 people. She will also have a flight deck and one hangar to accommodate one unmanned VTOL (Vertical Take-

Off and Landing) aircraft or one NH-90 naval helicopter. The frigate will be powered by a combined diesel and diesel (CODAD) propulsion system. She will have the capability to reach a top speed of 27 knots (50.0 km/h) with a maximum cruising range of 5,000 nmi (9,300 km) at 15 knots (27.8 km/h). Greece will become the second customer of this multi-mission frigate, bringing the number of units produced from five for the French Navy to eight in total, plus one as an option.

New corvette for the Hellenic Navy

As it was officially announced by the Greek Prime Minister in early October, Hellenic Navy has under consideration to acquire three corvettes as a follow program of the procurement of the three French FDI frigates to be built by the French shipyards Naval Group. Candidate shipyards are considered the French Naval Group, the Dutch shipbuilder Damen, the Israeli Shipyard, the Italian Fincantieri the British Babcock and the German NVL Group (former Lurssen)

Submarine's torpedo program

Defence Minister Panagiotopoulos had stated that among the Hellenic Navy's priorities is the acquisition of modern heavyweight torpedoes to equip the S-214 type submarines. The Hellenic Navy is looking to procure 36 21-inch (533 mm) heavyweight torpedoes for its four Papanikolis-class Type 214 submarines and sole Type 209 AIP-equipped submarine, HS Okeanos, to replace legacy AEG SUT and SST-4 torpedoes. Navy originally launched the new-generation heavyweight torpedo acquisition program in 2002. The contenders will likely include Atlas Elektronik with the DM2A4 Seahake Mod4, Naval Group with the F21 and Leonardo with the Black Shark

Meko frigate upgrade

The Hellenic Parliament Defence Committee has approved the mid-life update (MLU) of the Hellenic Navy's four Blohm + Voss/Hellenic Shipyards-built MEKO 200HN Hydra-class frigates, commissioned during the 1990s. The MLU is necessary to modernize the ships' capabilities to respond in the new operational requirements. The selected sub-systems for the MLU will be decided according to the budget availability which is around 450 million euro. No more details were announced

MH-60R Multi-Mission Helicopters

The Greek Ministry of Defense had signed a Letter of Acceptance (LoA) for 4 MH-60R helicopters with the US government under the foreign military sales (FMS) program in July 2020. Greece is to receive four of the seven MH-60R Seahawk helicopters it has been approved to buy, with a USD193.98 million contract announced on 26 October 2020. The new MH-60R helicopters will replace the Agusta Bell 212 in anti-submarine warfare (ASW) missions. Combined with 11 modernized Sikorsky

S-70B6 they will be the "long" arm of the Hellenic Navy for missions against submarines and ships in the Aegean and Eastern Mediterranean.

The MH-60R Multi-Mission Helicopters will be equipped with APS-I 53(V) Multi-Mode Radars, T700 GE-401 C Engines, Airborne Low Frequency System (ALFS), AN/ AAS-44C(V) Multi-Spectral Targeting Systems, Embedded Global Positioning System/Inertial Navigation Systems with Selective Availability/Anti-Spoofing Module (SAASM), AN/SSQ-36/53/62 Sonobuoys, AGM-114 M36-E9 Captive Air Training Missiles (CATM), AGM-114Q Hellfire Training Missiles, Advanced Precision Kill Weapons System (APKWS) Rockets, MK 54 Torpedoes, M-2400 Crew Served Guns; and GAU-21 Crew Served Guns. Also included AN/ARC-210 APX-1990A(C) Radios, AN/AVS-9 Night Vision Devices, AN/APX-123 Identification Friend or Foe (IFF) transponders, spare engine containers; facilities study, design, and construction; spare and repair parts; support and test equipment; communication equipment; ferry support; publications and technical documentation; personnel training and training equipment; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistical and program support. S-70 helicopters

Lockheed Martin has won a \$21 million contract to customize four MH-60R helicopters ordered by the Hellenic Navy from standard export configuration. Work is expected to be completed in September 2027. The Israeli company BET SHEMESH ENGINES LTD (BSEL) has been awarded with a contract for the maintenance, repair and the overhaul for the T700-401C engines of the Hellenic Navy's S-70 helicopters.

Delivery of the 6th and the 7th Super Vita Fast Attack Craft

After a long delay almost eight years, the Hellenic Navy has taken delivery of the 6th BAE Systems designed Fast Attack Craft at a ceremony at Elefsis Shipyard near Athens. HS "Karathanasis" is the latest vessel in a class of seven 62 metre Fast Attack Craft being built by BAE Systems' industry partner, Elefsis Shipyards, for the Hellenic Navy. Under a long-term technology transfer programme, BAE Systems is the design authority and major subcontractor to Elefsis Shipyards, responsible for the design and combat systems integration of the vessels.

The 62 metre Fast Attack Craft is designed as a high speed, multi-role platform that can operate in both anti-air and surface combat situations. Used by the Hellenic Navy as a high-speed interception and offshore patrol craft, its extensive weapon fit on a compact hull delivers an economic solution to surveillance, intelligence gathering, patrol, interdiction and engagement of enemy forces.

The purchase agreement of the first three fast attack craft (FACs) of the Roussen class (was signed in January 2000, and the construction took place at Eleusis Shipyards, while the Vosper Thornycroft (now BAE Systems Maritime) provided the necessary planning, logistics and equipment for the vessels. In August 2003 a contract was awarded for further two ships, Grigoropoulos and Ritsos, to be built by Elefsis. Ritsos was launched in October 2006 while the vessel was commissioned recently in 2015. A contract from the Hellenic Navy for an

additional two vessels, to bring the total to seven, was placed in September 2008. The first ship of the class was launched in November 2002 while three more vessels were launched the next three years. The seventh boat, Vlahakos, is expected to be delivered within 2021.

Modernization of P-3 Orion Maritime Patrol Aircraft

Defence Minister informed parliament that the Modernization of P-3 Orion Maritime Patrol Aircraft will be completed by 2024 while the total cost will be \$499.843.145,00.

The government-to-government agreement between the United States and Greece was announced in 2015, providing for the re-activation of one Hellenic Navy P-3B Orion maritime patrol aircraft, which has been delivered. This agreement also includes the modernization of four Hellenic Navy P-3B aircraft through the Mid-Life Upgrade (MLU) Program.

MLU kits provide an extension of service life by 15,000 flight hours. In addition, this contract provides for phased depot maintenance; a Greece indigenous mission integration and management system; new avionics; and other ancillary hardware and services.

The P-3 Orion is the model in maritime patrol and reconnaissance aircraft, and is used for homeland security, anti-piracy operations, humanitarian relief, search and rescue, intelligence gathering, antisubmarine warfare and, recently, to assist in air traffic control and natural disaster relief support. The Hellenic Navy operated the P-3 fleet for 15 years. Work on the Hellenic Navy P-3s is performed at HAI facilities in Greece, as well as at Lockheed Martin's facilities in Marietta, Georgia, and Greenville, South Carolina. Lockheed Martin is the Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) of the P-3 Orion.

The P-3 MLU and Avionics Modernization Program provides state-of-the-art operational advantages to the Hellenic Navy to not only support present mission requirements, but future ones as well. The domestic defense industry in Greece is providing 30 percent of the overall program value, drawing considerable industrial, financial and technological benefits for the autonomous operation and support of the specific weapon system.

NEXTER: Driving Innovation in Land Defense

On the occasion of the first edition of the DEFEA exhibition, that is held in Athens from July 13 to 15, 2021, Nexter presented the VBCI Philoctetes for the first time. Nexter in an exclusive interview with the GREEK DEFENCE NEWS presents its products and survivability solutions for tactical combat vehicles.

- **NEXTER is one well-known and recognized international defense industry providing customized, lightweight survivability solutions for tactical combat vehicles, weapon systems and ammunition for land, air and naval forces. Can you give us some background about the company's products?**

As you mention, NEXTER offers a wide range of products to its customers in the fields of artillery, armoured vehicles, medium calibre weaponry, ammunition and robotics. As the leading French manufacturer for land equipment, NEXTER has a real know-how in the design of military vehicles and their armament. Several of these products are combat proven, such as the VBCI and the CAESAR, while the new models of armoured vehicles which compose the SCORPION program are being deployed within the Belgian and French armies. NEXTER ARROWTECH, recently revealed brand grouping the companies MECAR (Belgium),

NEXTER MUNITIONS (France) and SIMMEL DIFESA (Italy) which groups, offers more than 80% of NATO standard ammunition from 20 to 155mm. NEXTER also offers a wide range of robots and protective equipment and has developed important customer, support and upgrade services for its partners.

- **NEXTER is no doubt an exceptional company with regard to expertise and capability. Could you give us in a nutshell the company philosophy?**

Our customers can rely on us throughout the entire life cycle of their products. We provide them with internationally recognised quality equipment, as well as a wide range of customer services for the maintenance of this equipment. NEXTER is also a leader in innovation in its fields of expertise and is already working on future land combat system programs. Finally, NEXTER offers long-term partnerships (G to G...) to client countries.

- **Could you tell us about NEXTER approach towards developing new products? What R&D initiatives has the company pursued to remain competitive in the marketplace?**

NEXTER devotes 16% of its annual turnover to R&D to improve current systems and design breakthrough technologies.

NEXTER developed in cooperation with BAE systems a new generation high performance gun named 40 CTAS and its associated ammunition equips the VBCI PHILOCTETES, the RAPIDFIRE gun and of course the JAGUAR vehicle of the SCORPION Program.



NEXTER ARROWTECH also develops innovative ammunition for the largest calibres, such as the high-performance 120mm APFSDS “SHARD” round, the 155 antitank BONUS shell (in cooperation with BAE Bofors) the precision guided munition KATANA shell.

• **Which technical innovations do you expect to provide new growth momentum in your Defence business?**

Let's take the field of armaments as an example. Apart from the new ammunition of its ARROWTECH branch, NEXTER is working on several technological bricks in the framework of the MGCS program. Thus, one of NEXTER's ambitions is to equip this combat tank with the Autoloaded and Scalable Outperforming Gun (ASCALON) of 140mm, that fires new generation ammunition with exceptional operational performance to respond to current and future threats.

• **Would you please provide details and technical specification about your proposal to the Hellenic Army regarding the VBCI PHILOCTETES?**

The VBCI PHILOCTETES is an 8x8 infantry fighting vehicle of 32 tons, with a large payload of 13 tons

and which can be equipped with a T40 either remotely operated (for infantry units) or featuring two soldiers (for armoured units) turret. Its two MMP anti-tank missiles, and its 40mm telescoped ammunition gun capable of piercing more than 140mm of laminated steel, make it a formidable opponent able to defeat any foe on the battlefield. This firepower is combined with an excellent maneuvering capability and a 600hp engine, giving it very high strategic, operational and tactical mobility. Adapted to all types of threats, the VBCI PHILOCTETES is based on the robust and modular VBCI chassis that has been proven in combat by the French Army in Afghanistan, Mali or Lebanon, and includes a complete of technical upgrades which meet the needs of the Greek Army in terms of mobility, protection and firepower.

• **Aside from your traditional customers from Europe and NATO, which other countries will take on particular significance for NEXTER in the future?**

Nexter sells its products in three main areas of the world: Europe, Asia-Pacific and the Middle East. We have relationships with many partners in these regions, who regularly renew their trust in us.

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International Flight Training School: technical arrangement signed for the training of Japanese military pilots in Italy

Further to Qatar and Germany, Japan has also chosen to send its military pilots to complete their operational training at the Italian Air Force's and Leonardo's International Flight Training School (IFTS).

The Chief of Staff of the Italian Air Force, General Alberto Rosso, and the Chief of Staff of the Japan Air Self-Defense Force (JASDF), General Shunji Izutsu, have signed today an important technical arrangement on the training of Japanese military pilots.

The technical arrangement was signed in "distance mode", through a connection between the offices of the two Generals in Italy and Japan. Thanks to this agreement, the Japanese military pilots will take part in the advanced training courses (Phase IV) at International Flight Training School (IFTS). The IFTS is a joint project made by Italian Air Force and Leonardo, that includes also an industrial partnership between Leonardo and CAE for the maintenance/support of the aircraft fleet and simulators.

Japan's interest in the training capabilities developed by the Italian Air Force was consolidated after a series of discussions and initiatives that culminated in a visit to the 61st Wing at Lecce-Galatina Air Force Base on September 2020. This was when a JASDF delegation was able to appreciate the excellence of the Italian Air Force's training system, particularly the Integrated Training System developed by Leonardo and centered around the T-346A aircraft.

The newly signed technical arrangement enables a gradual increase in JASDF student pilot intake over the forthcoming years. In the future, Japanese instructors could be welcomed into the school to work side-by-side with Italian colleagues, in an approach that favours the exchange of experiences, the optimization and standardization of procedures, to benefit all the operators in the sector.

Japan is the third country, after Qatar and Germany, to choose the International Flight Training School (IFTS) for its pilots.

The Chief of Staff of the Italian Air Force, General Alberto Rosso, before signing the document, underlined its profound significance: "Today is an important and historical date. I am proud and honoured to be able to sign this agreement, which will outline for both countries the track for growing together, for sharing professional skills, allowing our staff to work in close contact, synergy and friendship. This is another important step in the collaboration between our Air Forces: we are already cooperating with great success in many



© Leonardo Italian Air Force M-346 Full Mission Simulator

© Leonardo M-346 with IFTS Logo



areas, for example having common platforms such as the F-35 aircraft and the KC-767 tanker. The distance that separates us today is geographical only, but our countries are close, joined in harmony on many themes and historically connected. We remember, for example, the “Rome - Tokyo flight” of the pioneer Arturo Ferrarin, which we celebrated last week in his hometown of Thiene (North Italy): a historic undertaking and also a powerful symbol of the strong and lasting bond that joins our two countries.”

Chief of Staff of the Japan Air Self-Defense Force (JASDF), General Shunji Izutsu, commented: “Signing today the technical arrangement, I deeply appreciate your and your staff’s extensive support and cooperation. I believe that this is a significant step to deepen defense cooperation and exchanges between the Koku-Jieitai (Japan Air Self-Defense Force) and Italian Air Force. This is one of your great achievements. Let me extend my heartfelt respect to your achievements and gratitude to your contribution to Japan-Italy relationship. I really wish your continuous success and prosperity, and progress for the Italian Air Force.”

The International Flight Training School (IFTS) is the result of a strategic collaboration between the Italian Air Force and Leonardo, which is aimed at the establishment of an advanced flight training centre based in Italy. It is a virtuous example of collaboration and public-private synergy, capable of

satisfying the growing demand of partner countries for the training of their pilots at highest standards.

The project is intended to double today’s training offer by creating a new training center distributed between the bases of Galatina and Decimomannu, in Sardinia, where the new IFTS Campus is under construction. It will be a real flight academy capable of hosting students, technical staff and featuring accommodations as well as recreational areas, a cafeteria, sports facilities. Its logistic-maintenance infrastructures will assure the operations of the fleet of 22 M-346 (designated T-346A by the Italian Air Force) airplane fleet. An entire building will be home to the Ground Based Training System (GBTS), with classrooms and the installation of a modern training system based on the latest generation simulation devices. The partnership between Italian Air Force and Leonardo combined the Air Force’s established know-how and Leonardo’s excellence in military pilot integrated training systems maximizing cost-effectiveness for Italian Air Force, whilst strengthening the international role played by Leonardo as a Training Service Provider.”

Ready for the challenges of the future Lürssen realigns itself

Effective immediately, the Lürssen Group continues to operate its naval shipbuilding business under the new umbrella brand NVL (Naval Vessels Lürssen). The new NVL Group will unite all Defence locations and thus all shipbuilding competencies of the Defence division. The new company NVL was spun off from Fr. Lürssen Werft as it is going to be the future lead company of the NVL Group. The NVL Group's responsibilities therefore include the entire newbuild spectrum as well as all repair activities of naval vessels and coast guard boats. Newbuilds and refits of the Yachts division will remain unchanged under the Lürssen brand, run in the future by Fr. Lürssen Werft as the lead company. The family-run Group of companies, with its headquarters based in Bremen, is thereby setting the course for a sustainable and long-term future for both divisions.

'With the Yachts and Defence divisions, we serve very different and increasingly heterogeneous markets and target groups. In addition, complexity is growing in both civil and military shipbuilding. In order to make the most of our competencies as shipbuilders and our infrastructure at our shipyard locations, we have decided to clearly separate the

two divisions,' explains Friedrich Lürssen, shareholder of the Lürssen Group.

His cousin and fellow shareholder, Peter Lürssen, adds: 'With this strategic decision, we want to give our two divisions the scope they need to tailor structures and processes even more specifically to the needs of their respective customers. We are convinced that this approach will allow us to strengthen our domestic and international competitiveness and to ensure that our Group is positioned to meet the challenges of the future in the long run.'

The lead company of the NVL Group, which is headquartered in Bremen-Vegesack, will be jointly managed by Dr Klaus Borgschulte and Tim Wagner as spokespersons, together with Dirk Malgowski and Lena Ströbele.

The NVL Group includes the newbuild sites Peene-Werft in Wolgast and Blohm+Voss in Hamburg, the service activities of Lürssen Logistics, the two repair yards Neue Jadewerft in Wilhelmshaven and Norderwerft in Hamburg, and operations in Australia, Bulgaria and Brunei.

The NVL Group's shipyards cover the entire newbuild and repair portfolio for naval vessels and coast guard boats for the domestic and international markets. The merger allows us to use synergies between the individual sites even more efficiently,' explains Klaus Borgschulte.

All current projects for the German Navy and for our international customers will continue unchanged under the new umbrella brand,' says Tim Wagner. 'As a privately managed shipyard Group, we are



and will remain independent and thus highly flexible. We continue to offer our customers high-quality speciality vessels and related services.'

Under the Lürssen brand, the entire newbuild portfolio of the Yacht division will be continued unchanged by the Bremen-based Fr. Lürssen Werft, steeped in tradition, together with the Lürssen-Kröger Werft in Schacht-Audorf. Likewise, all activities for yacht refits and services at the Bremen and Hamburg locations will be managed by the Yacht division. Fr. Lürssen Werft as the holding company of the Yacht division is managed by Peter Lürßen as chairman, Dr Justus Reinke, Lena Ströbele, Sebastian Rheineck and York Ilgner.

Both divisions and all associated companies will remain part of the Lürssen Group, which will continue to be family-run.



BEREZHOK

Combat Turret

for BMP-3 IFVs



The High Precision Weapons Holding (HPW) unveiled the BMP-3 IFV fitted with a Berezhok combat turret at the ARMY-2021 Forum. The BMP-3 was developed by Kurganmashzavod while the turret was designed by KBP Instrument Design Bureau, both the HPW subsidiaries now.

The original BMP-3 is fitted with a two-man turret mounted in the center of the hull with the commander seated on the right and the gunner on the left. The turret is armed with one 100 mm 2A70 gun, a 30 mm 2A72 coaxial cannon, and a 7.62 mm PKT coaxial machine gun, all in a common mount. The armament is stabilized in two planes via the 2E52 electromechanical system.

The Berezhok combat weapon station mounted on BMP-3 IFV is armed with one 30 mm 2A42 main gun used on the BMP-2 IFV, a PKT 7.62 mm coaxial machine gun. The turret also includes two 9M133 Kornet-E anti-tank guided missile launchers mounted on each side of the turret and one AGS-30 30 mm automatic grenade launcher located on the roof. The Berezhok upgrade also includes a new fire-control system and optics.

ARMY-2021 witnessed the premier of the new version of BMP-3 IFV fitted with a Berezhok combat turret





According to the first analysis, the BMP-3 fitted with the Berezhok combat weapon station keeps the same hull and suspension. The vehicle has a crew of three including commander, gunner, and driver. A total of seven infantrymen can be carried, one aside of the driver with the remainder being seated to the sides and rear of the turret. The troop compartment is at the rear of the hull with entry via two doors in the hull rear opening left and right, with the left door having a firing port.

The BMP-3 IFV is powered by a UTD-29M 10-cylinder 4-stroke liquid-cooled diesel developing 500 hp coupled to hydro-mechanical transmission with 4 forward and 2 reverse gears located low down at the very rear of the hull. It can run at a maximum road speed of 70 km/h with a maximum cruising range of 600 km.

The BMP-3 fitted with the Berezhok turrets seems to keep its amphibious capabilities and is propelled in the water at a maximum speed of 10 km/h thanks to two water-jets mounted on either side low down at the rear of the hull.

The Berezhok universal combat module was developed for installation on light armored vehicles of the Soviet and Russian production. Since 2020 the Russian Army began modernization of the BMP-2 fleet, replacing the standard turret with the Berezhok combat weapon station.

Since 2010 the Russian companies has been working on the modernization of the BMP-1 IFVs of the Algerian Army into the BMP-2M version equipped with the Berezhok combat module. Indian Army, which is keen on upgrade of the BMP family of infantry fighting vehicles, could become next customer of the Berezhok turret.



©KBP- The Berezhok combat turret can provide second life for numerous BMP-1 and BMP-2 IFVs worldwide

FINCANTIERI DELIVERS THE FIRST CORVETTE FOR QATAR

On October 2021, at the presence of Senator Stefania Pucciarelli, Undersecretary of State for Defence, the delivery of the corvette “Al Zubarah”, the first of the class of the same name of four vessels ordered to Fincantieri by the Qatari Ministry of Defence within the national naval acquisition program, took place today at the Muggiano (La Spezia) shipyard.

The ceremony, held in a restricted format and in full compliance with anti-contagion requirements, was attended by Three-star General Salem Hamad Al Nabit, Chief of Staff of Qatar Armed Forces, Staff Major General (Sea) Abdullah Hassan Al-Sulaiti, Commander of Qatar Emiri Naval Forces, Vice Admiral Aurelio De Carolis, Deputy Chief of Staff of Italian Navy and Giuseppe Giordo, General Manager Naval Vessels Division of Fincantieri.

The Al Zubarah class corvettes, designed consistent with the RINAMIL rules, will be highly flexible and capable of fulfilling different kinds of tasks, from surveillance with sea rescue capacities to being fighting vessels. They will be about 107 meters long, 14.70 meters wide, and equipped with a combined diesel and diesel plant (CODAD), with a maximum speed of 28 knots. The units will be able to accommodate 112 persons on board.

Furthermore, the corvettes will be capable of operating high-speed boats such as RHIB (Rigid Hull Inflatable Boat) through lateral cranes or a hauling ramp located at the far stern. The flight deck and hangar are sized for hosting one NH90 helicopter.

On November 2, 2021, Fincantieri and Navantia have reached an agreement on a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in order to boost their relationship and explore the joint benefit of a broadened collaboration in the naval and maritime domains. Both companies, which are first class reference European shipyards, will assess future opportunities for Italian and Spanish Navies, including the development of joint projects and the participation in the development of future destroyers and other naval platforms that will be part of the future European Defence Force.

The signature will take place this Wednesday, November 3rd, in Navantia stand in FEINDEF exhibition in Madrid, by General Manager Naval Vessels Division of Fincantieri Giuseppe Giordo and Navantia Chairman Ricardo Domínguez.

Navantia and Fincantieri are already collaborating in the European Patrol Corvette (EPC) program, to date the most important naval initiative within the Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO) project, together with the French Naval Group.

Giuseppe Bono, CEO of Fincantieri, stated: “We have long agreed that, in order to stand its ground with the global challenges of the future, we need a robust and long-lasting cooperation in the defence and security field at a European level, just so our

© Fincantieri



continent will be able to play an increasingly important role and this agreement goes in that direction. We are therefore very satisfied to give substance to a plan that can no longer be postponed and to build a collaboration path based on important programs of the two Navies”.

Navantia’s Chairman Ricardo Domínguez has emphasized “the real opportunity of collaboration that this MoU represents, as it is the first one signed between both companies at this level and with this ambitious scope”. “We aim to strengthen European Defence and boost European Defence Industry position and we think that agreements as ours pave the way towards this objective”, he has added.

AL ZUBARAH CLASS

The vessel is designed consistent with the RINAMIL rules. She is a flexible type of ship capable of fulfilling a range of tasks, from surveillance with sea rescue capabilities to being a fighting vessel. Furthermore, the corvette will be capable of operating high-speed boats such as RHIB (Rigid Hull Inflatable Boat) through lateral cranes or a hauling ramp located at the far stern. The flight deck and hangar is sized for hosting one NH90 helicopter.

MAIN CHARACTERISTICS

Length overall	107.0 m
Length between perpendiculars	99.6 m
Beam	14.7 m
Depth	8.6 m
Full Load Displacement	abt. 3 250 t
Range (at cruising speed)	above 3 500 nm
Endurance	21 days
Crew	98+14 persons
Propulsion system	4xPDE + 2xRG + 2xFCPP
Generating sets	4 x DGS
Flight deck	for NH90
Hangar	for NH90
Maximum continuous speed	28 knots
Cruising speed	15 knots

COMBAT SYSTEM SENSORS

- Multi-Functional Radar
- IFF Interrogator & Transponder
- EWS Radar ESM & Communication ESM
- IR Search & Tracking Systems
- Radar & E/O Fire Control System
- E/O Fire Control Systems
- Towed Array Torpedo Detection System
- Obstacle & Mine Avoidance SONAR

EFFECTORS

- VLS for Medium Range SAM
- Short Range SAM Launcher
- SSM Launchers
- 76/62mm SR Multi Feeding Main Calibre Gun
- 30mm Secondary Calibre Guns
- EWS Radar ECM
- AAW Decoy Launchers
- ASW Decoy Launchers

COMMUNICATIONS

- Tactical Data Links 11, 16, JREAP, Y, (22 Fitted For)
- Satellite Communications
- Integrated Communications System

COMMAND & CONTROL

- Combat Management System



DESA sells Royal Navy ships to Egypt for first time in more than 30 years

In a landmark deal, the UK has sold military vessels to Egypt for the first time in more than 30 years.

The Royal Fleet Auxiliary ships, Fort Austin and Fort Rosalie, were sold by the Defence Equipment Sales Authority (DESA).

Royal Navy Solid Support Ships were released from service earlier this year. Their new lease of life could also support UK jobs, with negotiations under way for refurbishment work on the vessels before they are exported.

Minister for Defence Procurement, Jeremy Quin, said: “Fort Austin and Fort Rosalie played an important role in sustaining our naval fleet for decades and I thank all involved in their essential work.

“As we nod to the past service of these ships, we can also look forward to the exciting future of welcoming our new Fleet Solid Support ships. Both the UK and Egyptian navies continue to strengthen relations to maintain peace and security in the region.”

Backed by the £24 billion investment announced last year, developing defence exports and investments is a key element to advancing Global Britain and asserting UK defence in the face of evolving threats. The recent Integrated Review and Defence Command Paper aids these ambitions by providing a strategic backbone for such commercial activity.

Clive Walker, the Head of DESA, which is part of Defence Equipment and Support (DE&S), said:

“DESA is exceptionally happy to be working with the Egyptian Navy on the regeneration of two former Royal Fleet Auxiliary ships.

“This represents a tangible demonstration of the strengthening relationship between the two navies and the importance of the strategic relationship between the UK and Egypt.”

Fort Austin and Fort Rosalie have helped to ensure Navy personnel all over the world have the food, ammunition and explosives they need to carry out vital operations.

The sister ships have two flight decks, which means as well as traditional replenishment at sea they are also able to use helicopters to offload supplies.

Vice Admiral Chris Gardner, DE&S Director General Ships, said: “Fort Austin and Fort Rosalie have both served the Royal Fleet

Auxiliary, Royal Navy and many of our allies with distinction, across the globe both at peacetime and during conflict.

“Their sale to the Egyptian Navy – the first sale of UK military vessels to this partner in more than 30 years – represents both an investment in a UK partner nation and an opportunity to continue supporting our industry partners who will prepare these vessels to hand over, which is central to the successful National Shipbuilding Strategy.”

Fort Austin and Fort Rosalie will be replaced by the Fleet Solid Support (FSS) ships, which will form part of the UK’s Carrier Strike Group.

At the end of August, four consortia successful at the pre-qualifying stage for the FSS build were awarded Competitive Procurement Phase contracts to enable designs to be matured.

The consortia are Larsen & Toubro, which includes UK company Leidos Innovations; Serco/Damen, which includes UK company Serco; Team Resolute, which includes UK companies Harland & Wolff and BMT; and Team UK, which includes UK companies Babcock and BAE Systems.



©[https://des.mod.uk/The Royal Fleet Auxiliary ships, Fort Austin and Fort Rosalie](https://des.mod.uk/The_Royal_Fleet_Auxiliary_ships,_Fort_Austin_and_Fort_Rosalie)

Naval Group confirms the robustness of its drone management solution

In September 2021, Naval Group successfully conducted operational demonstrations of its drones' mission management solution integrated with the combat management system. The demonstrations took place at the Troia naval base in Portugal as part of the European collaborative project COMPASS 2020 (Coordination of Maritime Assets for Persistent And Systematic Surveillance) which aims at strengthening the European Union's maritime surveillance capabilities.

The COMPASS2020 project aims to enhance the security of the European Union's external borders and maritime surveillance capabilities by improving the situational awareness of coastguards and maritime authorities beyond coastal waters through optimal and continuous aerial and underwater coverage in reduced time and under various weather conditions.

In partnership with AMN (Autoridade Marítima Nacional de Portugal) - coordinator of the project - Tekever, ECA Group, Edisoft and TNO among others, Naval Group carried out a large-scale atsea demonstration using an underwater drone (UUV) and two aerial drones (UAV). The three drones were deployed from a Portuguese Navy Offshore Patrol Vessel, the NRP Setubal, off the coast of Troia, in Portugal, and from a land base. The scenarios involved assisting a migrant boat and foiling drug trafficking.

The real-time planning, management and operation of the drones and payloads, as well as the communication between the Offshore Patrol Vessel and the shore-based centre for the coordination of the operation, were all carried out from Naval Group's drones' mission management solution. During this demonstration, a suspicious vessel was detected, identified and neutralised in less than 30 minutes.

Diane Mulard, technical manager of the project for Naval Group, said: "We are very proud to see our solution working in a real environment. Despite the health context, we found solutions for remote de-risking and were able to cope with the difficulties during the face-to-face trials. We are proud to offer a scalable solution that can be adapted to different capabilities and types of missions and provides a real operational advantage for the navies."

Vanessa Cauvin, Director of R&D Collaborative Development Europe, added: "This program is the result of an intense European collaboration to which Naval Group is proud to participate. Thanks to the Naval Group solution, the mission management of drones is facilitated within joint and combined coalitions to gain efficiency and increase interoperability between ships and drones. We hope that COMPASS2020 will pave the way for other European collaborative projects in this field with the quality partners we have collaborated with in the consortium."

In order to constantly bring new capabilities to its customers, Naval Group integrates innovation at the heart of its strategy and throughout the life cycle of its solutions to maintain their operational superiority. In this sense, the Group has been working for several years on the development and integration of autonomous vehicles and offers innovative and efficient drone systems as well as the integration of all types of drones on board ships through standardised solutions.

Naval Group's drones' mission management solution is the product of several years of R&D and innovation and the result of the Group's recognised expertise in systems development, particularly for naval drone integration. This solution enables the supervision of naval drones' operations in all environments: air, surface and underwater. Integrated into the combat management system of surface ships or submarines, this system can also be deployed on a command centre on land.



Ambassador Pyatt's Remarks at Signing Ceremony of the U.S.-Greece Mutual Defense Cooperation Agreement (MDCA) Implementing Arrangement Hellenic National Defense General Staff, Athens As Delivered



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Thank you very much General Floros. Let me start by saying what a huge honor it is for me personally to be here today for this signing ceremony. I also want to say thank you to Brigadier General Gentile and all of our partners at European Command who have been indispensable to the deepening and strengthening of our bilateral defense relationship throughout the five years that I've been engaged in this effort. I was reminding Mike just this morning that it was almost exactly five years ago that I did my first reception in Greece on board the USS Mount Whitney in Piraeus. It's quite remarkable to think about the distance that we've traveled since then.

I also want to say a huge thank you, with your presence sir, both to Captain Biery and to Colonel MacDonald, for all of the work that they and their teams have put into building this relationship and specifically concluding the negotiations on the expanded Mutual Defense Cooperation Agreement (MDCA) and this implementing agreement. I count myself very fortunate to have such a strong U.S. military team at the embassy, and I know we all keep them very busy and I want to acknowledge both the sacrifices and the work that they've been engaged in, but also the significant progress.

As you said General, this implementing agreement really is a milestone in terms of the strengthening and deepening of our defense relationship. I would emphasize two points. One, the message that the United States underlined in Washington on the 14th of October when Foreign Minister Dendias led the team for our Strategic Dialogue, and the clear signal from the U.S. side that our defense relations are at a peak but not yet at the summit, that we will continue building and expanding those relations, and that this is recognized by the United States government, by President Biden's Administration, as one of the real bright spots of a strong and comprehensive bilateral relationship.

I would also emphasize one thing that has become very clear to me over these years, which is the degree to which the deepening of this cooperation is not only good for us, it's good for our bilateral defense relationship, it's also good for NATO. It helps to reinforce the credibility and the capability of our Alliance in a neighborhood that is not always friendly, and in a region where Greece has

come to be seen by all as a true pillar of stability, a reliable NATO Ally, and a net provider of security, a country which is part of the solution to building the kind of democratic stable region that our citizens want and deserve.

Finally, I would affirm your characterization of today's signing ceremony as a vote of confidence in that relationship. I'm very proud of the confidence that this has engendered in the United States among Republicans and Democrats. It's significant that so much of the work that begun under the four years of the Trump Administration is now being accelerated by President Biden, with strong support from Republicans and Democrats in the United States. And I hope very much that as Greek democracy engages in the final ratification of the updated MDCA that that same spirit of bipartisan democratic support will prevail.

General, thank you to you, thank you to all of your team who have worked with our team on this side of the table. And I very much look forward to seeing the results in the weeks and months ahead of even greater cooperation.

Rheinmetall and Intracom Defense join forces to cooperate in vehicle based C4I systems



Rheinmetall and Intracom Defense of Greece have agreed to cooperate closely in the field of vehicle based C4I systems.

The two companies will coordinate their activities for joint development and marketing of a vehicle based C4I system to jointly address the needs of their domestic and international markets. Both partners complement each other in ideal fashion: while Rheinmetall Electronics concentrates on command and communication systems for communication between vehicles and the chain of command, Intracom Defense is a globally acknowledged specialist for intercom systems that enable crewmembers to communicate with each other.

In concrete terms, cooperation will centre on combining Rheinmetall's TacNet tactical management system and expertise in soldier systems and C4ISTAR applications with Intracom Defense's WiSPRevo communication and information system and longstanding experience in the field of vehicle communications.

Under the cooperation agreement, Rheinmetall and Intracom Defense will pool their technological, production and commercial capabilities to produce operationally excellent, user-friendly, cost-efficient C4I solutions for military vehicles – invariably geared to the needs of the customer.

Digitization, networking and cyber technology – Rheinmetall Electronics has full command of the complete chain of a system network: from sensors and the networking of platforms and soldiers through to the automated connection of weapon stations and effectors. The company's simulation solutions for ground, air and maritime applications include instruction and development platforms for training individuals, teams and complete organizations. Specific IT and cybersecurity solutions complete the portfolio.

Customers in over forty countries trust in technologies from Rheinmetall Electronics. Numerous branch offices around the world assure proximity to customers and an outstanding network of partners.

Christoph Müller (right), Managing Director of Rheinmetall Electronics GmbH, and Intracom Defense Chief Executive Officer, Dr. George Troullinos, signed a cooperation agreement at the end of September 2021



IAI Selected by Israel's MoD as Prime Contractor to Develop the Technologies for the Future Armored Fighting Vehicle – the Carmel

Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) has been selected by Israel's Ministry of Defense (IMoD) as the prime contractor and integrator for developing the concept and technologies for the future Armored Fighting Vehicle for the IDF – the Carmel – following IAI winning a demonstration of the technologies between Israel's defense companies. At the conclusion of a successful live demonstration of a two-man, closed hatches armored fighting vehicle (AFV), IAI was selected by the IMoD to develop the next phase of the Carmel: development and demonstration of technologies for a multidimensional combat team, which will enable significant improvement in the system maneuverability.

With the Carmel demonstration, IAI has developed and proven a combat concept in which an AFV, with closed hatches, is operated by a two-man crew and can successfully cope with existing and future challenges on the battlefield. This solution is based on automatic and autonomous systems that complement the two-man team and operate the central subsystems – the vehicles' mission planning and management, situational awareness, driving and lethality. These capabilities allow the team to define, supervise and interfere only when there is a necessity or need, and enables to cover a wider area of concern while effectively meeting the challenges faced by the maneuvering forces. The system has the ability to locate and destroy time-sensitive targets with small footprints, through quick acquisition and effective engagement of targets.

The Carmel concept is groundbreaking on a global scale and has grabbed the attention of many industries and militaries around the world. The program combines an innovative operational concept with the latest and most advanced state-of-the-art technologies, which provide solutions in the future battlefield based on a small team, and extensive reliance on autonomous capabilities based on artificial intelligence (AI), all while minimizing the risk to human lives in a ground campaign, minimizing collateral damage, and streamlining battle management.

IAI President and CEO, Boaz Levy: "We are very proud that the IMoD and the Land Forces Division selected the Carmel solution presented and developed by IAI. The central principles behind the company's concept of land combat include intelligence gathering and acquisition of targets in the battlefield, conducted autonomously. The Carmel solution, as demonstrated by IAI, brings to

the world of land combat the concept of system of systems championed by IAI, and includes a combination of capabilities, systems, groundbreaking innovation and connection to the world of artificial intelligence as an additional strategic capability the IDF can use in the future battlefield. Carmel will enable complex ground operations with less risk to human lives, which will transform ground combat strategy as we know it today."

The central technologies IAI is developing for land maneuvering forces include:

- **Command System** – the brain, in charge of planning and managing the combat team's missions autonomously.
- **Situational Awareness System** – combining advanced capabilities in the areas of radars, SIGINT, and electro-optics, simultaneously locating threats on land, in the air and more that fall within the combat team's field of interest, classifying targets in real time and quickly and accurately differentiating and prioritizing between friend or foe.
- **Lethality System** – in charge of classifying and prioritizing targets in real time, by allocating the most appropriate lethal tool for each target from a range of munitions at the combat team's disposal.
- **Mobility System** – in charge of planning optimal routes of advancement for each of the vehicles in the combat team during missions.
- **Operations System** – team members can observe the battlefield in several dimensions, and thus gain a better understanding, and an innovative user interface will enable combat soldiers to receive optimal decisions when they are required to make them.

IAI's ELTA Division is home to Israel's intelligence and radar systems that develops groundbreaking strategic systems like special-mission aircraft, national cyber arrays, land robotics systems, drone defenses, border patrol defense systems, and more. IAI is a focal point of national and global technological knowhow in the fields of air defense, radars, satellites, unmanned vehicles, civil aviation and cyber.



Blue Flag 2021: IAI's Scorpius T AESA EW Next Generation Threat Simulator Debuts in Blue Flag 2021

Israel Aerospace Industries' (IAI) subsidiary, ELTA, is excited to unveil the Training Scorpius (Scorpius T) system participating in the Blue Flag 2021 military exercise- the first use of the system in an international military exercise.

The mobile, Scorpius T, AESA EW threat simulator, emulates modern, signal-dense, multi-threat scenarios for aircrews and operators training, as well as test EW functions. The system is compatible with 5th generation fighters, mission-aircraft and fighter aircraft. The technology uses a range of small transmitter/receiver units, opposed to a single mechanical antenna, to provide a mobile training unit capable of simulating a range of combat scenarios. In addition, Scorpius T is the first system to combine IAI/ELTA's AESA technology with EW systems to simulate multiple land-based threats in training exercises.

Scorpius T AESA EW threat simulator is capable of producing an exact RF signature of any system, version or mode, to simulate full engagement cycles.

The system supports multiple simulation beams simultaneously with multiple enemy SAMs and RF systems and can simulate double- and triple-digit threats.

The threat database can be updated to mirror emerging threats based on relevant data. Scorpius T can synchronize with other simulators, ADMI or command and control centers. The system includes a post-mission debriefing function to analyze and improve performance.

The Blue Flag exercise brings together some of the strongest air forces in the world for comprehensive and rigorous training and synchronization. IAI understands that practice makes perfect. This is why IAI puts significant research and development into engineering training system that simulate real-world combat scenarios to prepare forces as much as possible. The new Scorpius T is unlike any training system available, providing the user with a mobile combat scenario generator to simulate a full range of combat scenarios with minimal time and cost. In addition, IAI's flagship OPAL system continues to assist forces in synchronizing data in real time, while EHUD trains the world's most advanced aircraft to face the most complex battle scenarios. In addition to Scorpius T, IAI's OPAL and EHUD systems are participating in Blue Flag 2021.

The Autonomous Air Combat Maneuvering Instrumentation system is a unique real-time air combat training, debriefing and safety enhancement system for fighter aircraft pilots. EHUD enables live training at a sophisticated level - including the simulated armament firing, real-time hit and miss assessments, and exceptional debriefing capabilities. The EHUD ACMI training system has been in use in the Israeli Air Force (IAF) since 2017. The system also participated in Blue Flag 2019. For the first time, the EHUD system processed data from the Israeli F35I Adir and Italian F35B fighters. In addition, images of moving targets were transferred in real-time to aircraft, along with the effects of air defense launches from real and simulated weapon systems. Combined with these live-virtual effects, EHUD provided all participants the most realistic, complete combat environment and the best experience they could gain from such exercise.

Throughout Blue Flag 2021 the Israeli Air Force (IAF) will simulate, together with foreign air forces, advanced combat scenarios that require complex coordination and communication. Successful mission completion is made possible, in part, thanks to IAI's OPAL system that operates on IAF aircraft. OPAL aggregates, builds and shares a comprehensive combat picture across participating units, allowing information-sharing in real time. At every point in time each participating platform is fully updated and synchronized with all combat related data. All combat units are immediately updated as new threats are identified. In addition, all combat units are updated as new targets are identified based on data gathered from a range of sensors integrated on each aerial platform, thus allowing synchronized targeting.

Pictured (Credit: IAI): Scorpius T



Milipol 2021: IWI announces the launch of a new assault rifle in the ACE family – the ACE-N 52 – with an improved ergonomic design, suitable for standard NATO magazines

Compatible with 7.62X51mm ammunition, the new weapon is designed to meet the challenges of the modern battlefield

IWI – Israel Weapon Industries – a member of the SK Group (founded by Mr. Samy Katsav) a leader in producing combat-proven small arms for military forces, police units, law enforcement agencies and governmental entities around the world – is launching the new ACE-N 52 assault rifle. The latest model in the ACE family, the ACE-N 52 has an improved ergonomic design that is suitable for use with standard NATO (AR-10) magazines, including 7.62X51mm ammunition.

Based on the reliable and proven mechanism of the famous GALIL assault rifle – which was the main assault rifle of the IDF – the ACE-N 52 has been designed specifically to enable forces to meet the challenges of the modern battlefield.

“As a leader in the field of small arms, IWI constantly continues to develop the most advanced products, according to the changing needs of its customers,” says Ronen Hamudot, Executive VP Marketing and

Sales at SK Group and IWI. “In this way, the ACE-N 52, with its enhanced ergonomic features, meets the needs of the modern battlefield. An additional configuration of the ACE-N 52 has been adapted to the needs of the civilian market.”

The ACE-N 52 meets the standards of MIL SDT 810 and is able to withstand harsh weather and environmental conditions. With a foldable AR butt and adjustable cheek rest, the new weapon enables flexible operation and enhances mission accuracy. This highly versatile weapon also features a Picatinny rail, to adapt a wide range of equipment.

With enhanced human engineering and ergonomics incorporated into its design, the ACE is an outstanding assault rifle. Able to achieve high accuracy and reliability under the most extreme conditions, it is well suited to the emerging unstable realities of modern combat. Deployed and proven worldwide, the ACE 5.56X45mm is compatible with a NATO-standard ammunition weapon. The ACE 7.62X39mm enables military forces around the world to replace their weapons with modern, innovative, high-performance models without changing their ammunition requirements. The ACE 7.62X51mm is a modern and reliable weapon, suitable for long-range targets in open and urban areas.

Easy to use and simple to maintain, ACE assault rifles are exceptionally resourceful due to their versatility. They incorporate 360° Picatinny rails, serving as a platform for mounting a wide array of optical devices and accessories.



Iskander-E hits for export

By Yuri Laskin

The Iskander-E operational-tactical missile system showed exceptional accuracy in the firing in presence of a foreign customer, Bekhan Ozdoev, industrial director of the Rostec armament complex, recently announced.

The target was a 30 by 30 meters square with elements of an obsolete piece of military equipment being placed in the middle. "The ballistic missile launched by the complex overcame 180 kilometers and hit exactly the crosshair of the target - this was confirmed by the cameras installed around the target. The products of Rostec enterprises once again proved to be extremely efficient," Ozdoev said.



Alexander Romaniuk, Deputy Head of the Export-Import Directorate of KBM (part of the High-Precision Weapons Holding, the Rostec Corporation subsidiary), said the generals of the customer were present at the shooting to witness the broadcast. "After the missile hit the cross ", the applause did not subside for a long time," - said the KBM representative.

Iskander-E was developed by the Mechanical Engineering Design Bureau. The combat vehicle carries two 9M723-E ballistic missiles being able to destroy critical enemy targets at ranges of slightly less than 300 kilometers. Iskander-E is an export version of the Iskander complex which is at service with the Russian Army.

The complex main characteristic according to Rosoboronexport catalogue

Range of fire, km:	max	280
	min	50
Number of missiles:		
TEL (transporter/erector launcher)		2
TLV (transporter/loader vehicle)		2
Time to launch the first missile, min:		
ready-to-launch position		4
march		16
Interval between launches, min		1
Transportability:	rail, sea, and air transport	
Assigned service life, years		10
Operating temperature range, °C		± 50



The 10th Exhibition of Arms and Defense Equipment “PARTNER” was a great success

From 11 to 14 October 2021 at the Belgrade Fair, the 10th International Exhibition of Arms and Defense Equipment „PARTNER 2021 “was held under the auspices of the Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Serbia, co-organized by the „Jugoimport-SDPR“ and supported by the Belgrade Fair. The year 2021 is the first jubilee year of the PARTNER Exhibition. This is the 10th anniversary of an initiative which was started in 2004, strongly supported by the workmen of the Ministry of Defense, the Jugoimport-SDPR and the Belgrade Fair.

PARTNER has become the largest and the most prominent exhibition of arms and defense equipment in the Southeast Europe. Among other VIP guest speakers participating in PARTNER exhibition conference were Mr. Nenad Miloradović, PhD, Assistant Minister of Defense, RS, Mr. Aleksandar Lijaković, Assistant Director for Commercial Affairs of the public company „Jugoimport-SDPR“, and Ms. Mirjana Lukić, Advisor to the Acting Director of the Belgrade Fair.

Along with the companies operating as a group called Serbian Defense Industry, were manufacturers of arms and defense equipment from Serbia, arms trading companies, scientific, educational, and research institutions, as well as institutions within the Ministry of Defense which deal in overhaul, maintenance, and testing of arms and defense equipment.

Jugoimport-SDPR“presented its capabilities within the frame of the the main three business strategy missions: as the holder of R&D and production of complex combat systems and ammunition, as the integrator of the Serbian Defense Industry on the global market, and as the company procuring arms and defense equipment for the Serbian Defense Forces and the Ministry of Interior, both from domestic and foreign manufacturers.

Products from R&D departments of Jugoimport subsidiaries, such as „Complex Combat Systems“Velika Plana (Kuršumlija facility), „Belom“ Uzići, manufacturer of small arms ammunition, „Utva“ Pančevo, „Forging Center“ Valjevo, PMC, Atera etc were presented in the PARTNER. The group of Jugoimport subsidiaries, although mostly technological companies such as „Srpska banka“, acting as the financial and strategic partner.



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