Volume 7 Number 50 – Wednesday, 16 December 2015

Part I: Estonia

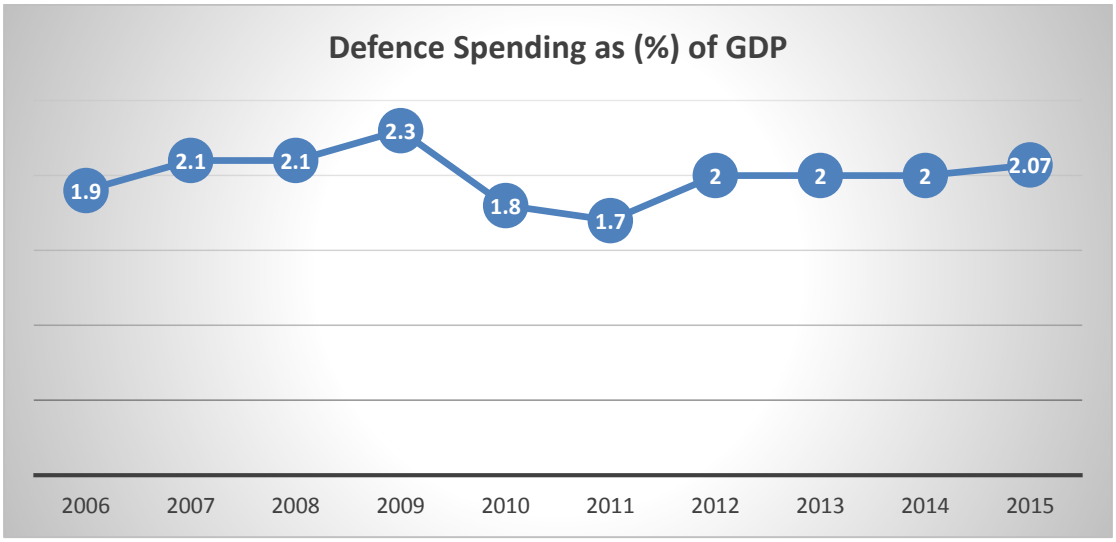
Part II: Epicos Newsroom

Estonia: Allocation of Defence Budget and Future Defence Procurements

REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

On 2 December 2015, The Riigikogu (Estonian Parliament) approved the next year's state budget. Defence expenditures will reach 2.07% of forecast GDP. This means an increase of 37.1 million euros, or 9% over 2015. The national defence budget of 451 million euros will ensure the development of much needed defence capabilities. According to the Estonian authorities for the period 2017-2022 the military defence spending is guaranteed at a level of at least 2% of GDP and is aimed primarily at developing military capabilities. Additionally, the total defence expenditure will be increased from €451 million Euros that will be in 2016 to €600,705 million Euros in 2022.

According to the Estonian Ministry of Defence €114 million Euros, one-fourth of the next year's defence budget, will be directed towards the development of new military capabilities. The largest single investment in 2016 will be the procurement of CV90 IFVs. Over €25.2 million Euros is budgeted for purchase of these vehicles. An additional €40 million Euros will be spent on new weapons and equipment for the Defence Forces' main operational units- 1st and 2nd infantry brigade, including ammunition, equipment for combat engineers and uniforms. €51.6 million Euros will be spend on new infrastructure, while €6.28 million Euros is planned to support participation of the Defence Forces in international military operations in Lebanon, Mali, Afghanistan and elsewhere.



Source: SIPRI DATABASE

The forecasted defence expenditures for 2016-2018 is expected to be €949.86 million Euros. The funds allocated for the acquisition of new armament will be spend taking into consideration the specificities created by the fact that the country is a small state and by the requirements generated by the necessity for interoperability with its allies. Therefore, main

priorities include the purchase of equipment for units participating in international operations and the Infantry Brigade.

As it is already mentioned one of Estonian's main priorities is the establishment of modern and integrated communication capabilities. The main project will be the up-building of a tactical communication system of the Defence Forces and Infantry Brigade, the ESTTACS (Estonian Tactical Communication System). The implementation of such a project will help towards the direction of creating an army that will meet NATO's interoperability standards and will fulfil Estonian's commitment to contribute to the NATO's Force Structure, by participating in the full spectrum of Allied operations. The reason is that it will provide the Defence Forces with all the modern communication opportunities, including voice, radio and data communication and their compatibility with NATO's structures.

According to Estonian authorities, there is also a need for heavy armoured manoeuvre capability tanks and medium range air-defence capability. Due to resource limitations, it will be possible to start developing these capabilities by 2022.

Regarding the navy, Estonian priorities will be to:

- Maintain the readiness of three ships for participation in NATO-led operations, both independently or as part of BALTRON (Baltic Naval Squadron On-Shore Facility);
- Continue the development of mine countermeasures capability, including the mine database;
- Develop national Naval and Maritime Integrated C31 System; continue the development of the Centre for Naval Education and Training.

Finally, the main goal of the Estonian air force is to build up an air surveillance system.

Kyriazis Vasileios,
Epicos Newsletter Head Editor

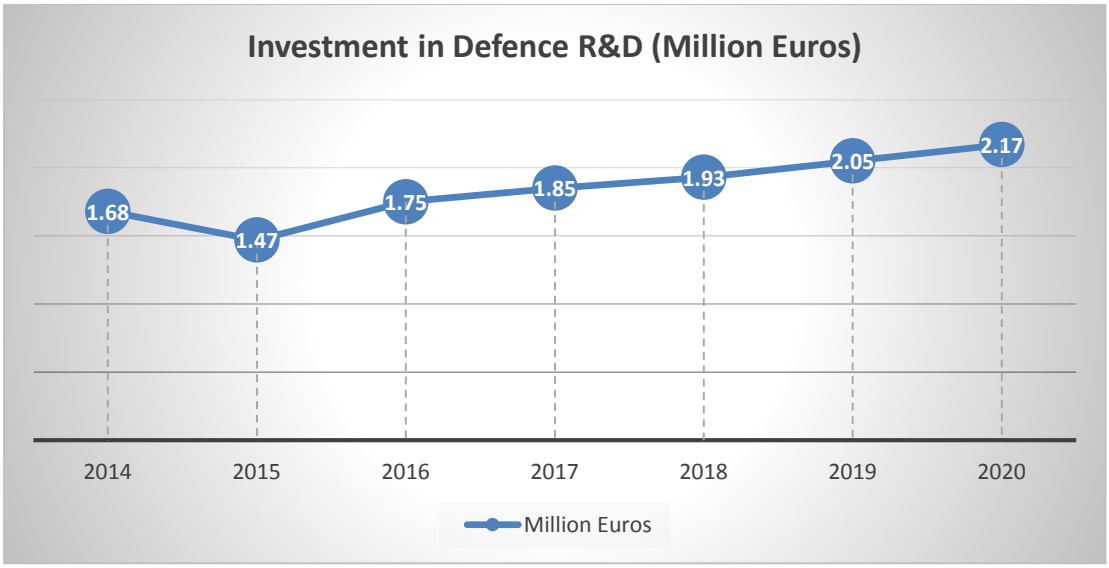
Estonian Defence Industry: R&D Expenditure and Future Potential

Estonian Defence Industry Association

Estonia is a small country that does not have a defence industry in its full and proper sense. Nevertheless, there is a small group of high-tech companies that are slowly but steadily finding their way to international markets. One such company is Cybernetica, which is specialising in information security and management and had signed an agreement with Chemonics International Inc. to participate in the Integrated Financial Management System (IFMS) Project in Haiti that is financed by the United States Agency for International Development.

Estonia's market is rather small. Therefore, it is difficult to sustain a full-scale defence industry, so Estonian companies should try to pursue opportunities in the international market. On the other hand Estonian companies should be ready to cooperate with the Estonian Defence Forces (EDF) in order to have a broader understanding of the actual needs of an army.

Estonian authorities understand that the further development of the defence industry should be closely related to defence-related research and development. According to a report published by the International Centre for Defence Studies, using data from the Estonian Ministry of Defence, R&D expenditure peaked in 2008, when approximately 1.85 million euros (or 0.62% of the entire defence budget) were spent on R&D projects. In 2009, during the financial crisis defence R&D suffered a significant decline to approximately 0.5 million Euros. R&D investment will be further intensified in the years to come, as according to the Estonian Ministry of Education and Research defence R&D expenditure is projected to be 2.2 million Euros in 2020, while for the period 2014-2020 it will reach 12.9 million Euros in total.



Source: https://www.hm.ee/sites/default/files/estonian_rdi_strategy_2014-2020.pdf

In order to establish a defence industry, Estonia should try to intensify its R&D efforts and to link them with commercial opportunities. Thus, the R&D efforts should be oriented towards developing concrete products and/or services that could be used by the Estonian armed forces and in the future could have the potentiality to be exported.

For a thorough list of Estonian defence companies please Click Here

Kyriazis Vasileios,
Epicos Newsletter Head Editor

Epicos "Industrial Cooperation and Offset Projects"

Epicos "Industrial Cooperation and Offset Projects" provides a unique set of online tools enabling the structure, identification and implementation of comprehensive Offsets programs, through a searchable database. By introducing different offset projects and ideas proposed by local A&D industry it ensures the optimum cost for Prime Contractors and reassures that the priorities of local industry are fully met…

For Further Information Press Here

New generation of Tactical Vests for Military, Police and Law Enforcement applications, able to stop 7.62x39 rounds, without additional ballistic protection plates

A leading company in the development and manufacturing of personal protective equipment, including tactical vests, concealed ballistic vests, riot control equipment and related training equipment, is proposing the development and production of a new generation of personal ballistic protection systems, able to stop 7.62 x 39 rounds, without inserting additional ballistic protection plates, thus reducing the overall vest weight.

For Further Information Contact our ICO Department
Mail at: g-menexis@epicos.com

EMP/HPM protected system cabinets for Military and Homeland Security

A leading company in EMP protection, designing, building, and maintaining radio and telecommunication networks, in product development and electrical assembly, is proposing the design and development of EMP protected cabinets to house critical communications and other sensitive electrical equipment.

For Further Information Contact our ICO Department

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Lockheed Martin Receives $1.1 Billion Contract for PAC-3 Missiles Domestic and International Orders

The United States and allied military forces will upgrade their missile defense capabilities under a new $1.1 billion contract for production and delivery of Lockheed Martin (NYSE: LMT)-built Patriot Advanced Capability-3 (PAC-3) missiles and PAC-3 Missile Segment Enhancement (PAC-3 MSE) missiles.

The contract includes PAC-3 and PAC-3 MSE interceptor deliveries for the U.S. Army, and Foreign Military Sales of PAC-3 interceptors, Launcher Modification Kits, associated equipment and spares for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Republic of Korea and Qatar.

“Our PAC-3 and PAC-3 MSE interceptors are the most trusted and capable terminal air defense missiles in the world, and we’re proud to support our customers as they protect soldiers, citizens and infrastructure from adversary threats,” said Scott Arnold, Lockheed Martin’s vice president of PAC-3 programs. “All Lockheed Martin-built missile defense interceptors utilize advanced hit-to-kill technology enabling better accuracy, enhanced safety and improved reliability when it matters most.”

The PAC-3 Missile is a high-velocity interceptor that defends against incoming threats including tactical ballistic missiles, cruise missiles and aircraft. PAC-3 currently provides missile defense capabilities for six nations – the U.S., the Netherlands, Germany, Japan, United Arab Emirates and Taiwan. In addition to the three countries included under this contract, Lockheed Martin is also under contract with Kuwait.

Building on the combat proven PAC-3, the PAC-3 MSE missile uses a two-pulse solid rocket motor that increases altitude and range to meet evolving threats.

About Lockheed Martin

Headquartered in Bethesda, Maryland, Lockheed Martin is a global security and aerospace company that – with the addition of Sikorsky – employs approximately 126,000 people worldwide and is principally engaged in the research, design, development, manufacture, integration and sustainment of advanced technology systems, products and services.

For Further Information Click Here

Expansion of Cape Class Program

Austal Limited is pleased to announce it has entered into a shipbuilding contract with the National Australia Bank to construct two further Cape Class Patrol Boats. The contract value is $63 million. The two vessels will be delivered to the National Australia Bank in mid-CY2017 and subsequently chartered to the Commonwealth of Australia (Department of Defence) for a minimum term of three years. Austal has successfully employed a similar off balance sheet charter of defence ships through the charter of Westpac Express to the US Navy for 13 years.

The vessels will also be sustained by Austal in accordance with the in-service support offering provided to the 8 existing Cape Class Patrol Boats designed and constructed by Austal and owned by the Australian Border Force.

Austal is providing a residual value guarantee to the National Australia Bank, which may be exercised at the conclusion of the charter term. In the event that the Department of Defence returns the ships at the end of the charter and National Australia Bank exercises the residual value guarantee option, then Austal will purchase the vessels at a pre-agreed price.

Austal CEO Andrew Bellamy said the contract would take the fleet of Cape Class Patrol Boats to 10 vessels and reflected the quality and performance of the existing fleet of ships Austal recently delivered on time and on budget.

“It is also a terrific vote of confidence in Austal and the products we design, build and sustain at our Henderson shipyard in Western Australia. As Australia’s only ASX-listed prime contractor we are very well positioned to support the Commonwealth in its future continuous ship building plans,” Mr Bellamy said.

Austal is also contracted to deliver two High Speed Support Vessels to the Royal Navy of Oman from its Henderson shipyard.

“The two corvette-sized vessels we are building at our Australian shipyard for export to Oman next year are progressing well and demonstrate that Austal is internationally competitive when it comes to advanced manufacturing.”

About Austal

Austal is a global defence prime contractor and a designer and manufacturer of defence and commercial ships. For more than 25 years Austal has been a leader in the design, construction and maintenance of revolutionary ships for Governments, Navies and Ferry operators around the world. More than 250 vessels have been delivered in that time.

Ships

Defence vessels designed and built by Austal include multi-mission combatants, such as the Littoral Combat Ship (LCS) for the United States Navy and military high speed vessels for transport and humanitarian relief, such as the Expeditionary Fast Transports (EPF) formerly known as the Joint High Speed Vessel (JHSV) for the United States Navy and High Speed Support Vessel (HSSV) for the Royal Navy of Oman. Austal also designs, constructs, integrates and maintains an extensive range of patrol and auxiliary vessels for government agencies globally, including the Cape Class Patrol Boat Program for Australian Border Force (formerly Customs and Border Protection). Defence vessels are designed and constructed in Mobile, Alabama and in Henderson, Western Australia.

Austal has been at the forefront of the high speed ferry market since the early days of the industry. Our market leading designs of high performance aluminium vessels have long been at the heart of Austal's research and development. Today, commercial ship construction is centred on our shipyard in Balamban, Philippines.

Systems

Austal has expertise in integrating complex systems into its ships, including ride control, ship management, and communication, sensors and weapon systems.

Support

Austal provides a wide range of support services, including through life support, integrated logistics support, vessel sustainment and systems support. These services are delivered through our global support network in the USA, Australia, Asia and the Middle East together with partner shipyards worldwide.

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For Further Information Click Here

Epicos NewsRoom

General Dynamics Wins Contract to Provide Communications Services to USAFCENT in Southwest and Central Asia

General Dynamics Information Technology, a business unit of General Dynamics, has been awarded a contract by the Defense Information Systems Agency in support of the U.S. Air Forces Central Command (USAFCENT) to provide communications technical support services in Asia. The single-award, indefinite delivery, indefinite quantity contract has a potential value of approximately $450 million for five years, if all options are exercised.

Under this contract, General Dynamics will provide communications systems acquisition, integration, installation, operations and maintenance support. Work on the contract will be performed at Shaw Air Force Base in Sumter, S.C., and USAFCENT deployment locations throughout Southwest and Central Asia. The company anticipates hiring over 200 employees to support this program.

“General Dynamics will continue providing the U.S. Air Force Central Command with mission-essential communications and IT support services throughout the Persian Gulf region and in Central Asia,” said Dan Busby, vice president and general manager of General Dynamics Information Technology’s IT Services and Solutions sector. “We are particularly proud to serve the Air Force’s forward-based units.”

For more than 10 years, General Dynamics has provided USAFCENT’s Combined Air and Space Operations Center with enterprise communications solutions, services and logistical support. The company continues to support the Department of Defense and other federal agencies as a primary source of network and system engineering, installation, maintenance and logistical services.

For more information about General Dynamics Information Technology, please visit www.gdit.com.

More information about General Dynamics is available at www.generaldynamics.com.

Source: Epicos, General Dynamics Information Technology

Oshkosh Corporation Resumes Work on Joint Light Tactical Vehicle Production Contract

The U.S. Army Tank-automotive and Armaments Command (TACOM) Life Cycle Management Command (LCMC) has directed Oshkosh Defense, LLC, an Oshkosh Corporation company, to resume work on the Joint Light Tactical Vehicle (JLTV) production contract. The JLTV program fills a critical capability gap for the U.S. Army and Marine Corps by replacing a large portion of the legacy HMMWV fleet with a light vehicle that provides unprecedented protection, off-road mobility and transportability.

“We are pleased that the JLTV production contract, awarded to Oshkosh in August, is now moving forward to deliver the world’s most capable light tactical vehicle,” said U.S. Army Major General (Retired) John M. Urias, executive vice president of Oshkosh Corporation and president of Oshkosh Defense. “Our JLTV is designed to safely transport Soldiers and Marines as they perform their missions ‘outside the wire’ – providing unprecedented off-road speed and mobility on future battlefields that could be virtually anywhere in the world.”

The U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) dismissed Lockheed Martin’s protest earlier today based on Lockheed’s notice that it intends to file a protest in the U.S. Court of Federal Claims. Shortly thereafter, the U.S. Army lifted the stop work order and instructed Oshkosh to resume performance of the JLTV contract. According to the JLTV production contract, Oshkosh will begin delivering vehicles within the next 10 months, reaching an expected total volume of nearly 17,000 vehicles, as well as kits and sustainment services over an eight-year period.

“The Army conducted a thorough, methodical procurement including exhaustive testing and evaluation to ensure our troops get the best vehicle,” said Urias. “The Oshkosh team and our employees will immediately resume work to deliver JLTVs to our Soldiers and Marines.

“The JLTV program fills a critical gap in the U.S. military’s current tactical vehicle line-up,” said Urias. “The Oshkosh JLTV will give our troops new levels of payload, performance and protection in a platform that was engineered to evolve as new technologies emerge and our adversaries’ tactics change.”

In designing its JLTV, Oshkosh leveraged its extensive experience producing and sustaining more than 150,000 heavy, medium and protected MRAP vehicles for the U.S. and its allies. The JLTV Family of Vehicles is comprised of two seat and four seat variants, as well as a companion trailer (JLTV-T). The two seat variant has one base vehicle platform, the Utility (JLTV-UTL). The four seat variant has two base vehicle platforms, the General Purpose (JLTV-GP) and the Close Combat Weapons Carrier (JLTV-CCWC).

About Oshkosh Defense

Oshkosh Defense is a leading provider of tactical wheeled vehicles and life cycle sustainment services. For decades Oshkosh has been mobilizing military and security forces around the

globe by offering a full portfolio of heavy, medium, light and highly protected military vehicles to support our customers' missions. In addition, Oshkosh offers advanced technologies and vehicle components such as TAK-4® independent suspension systems, TerraMax® unmanned ground vehicle solutions, Command Zone™ integrated control and diagnostics system, and ProPulse® diesel electric and on-board vehicle power solutions, to provide our customers with a technical edge as they fulfill their missions. Every Oshkosh vehicle is backed by a team of defense industry experts and complete range of sustainment and training services to optimize fleet readiness and performance. Oshkosh Defense, LLC is an Oshkosh Corporation company [NYSE: OSK].

To learn more about Oshkosh Defense, please visit at www.oshkoshdefense.com.

About Oshkosh Corporation

Oshkosh Corporation is a leading designer, manufacturer and marketer of a broad range of access equipment, commercial, fire & emergency, military and specialty vehicles and vehicle bodies. Oshkosh Corporation manufactures, distributes and services products under the brands of Oshkosh®, JLG®, Pierce®, McNeilus®, Jerr-Dan®, Frontline™, CON-E-CO®, London® and IMT®. Oshkosh products are valued worldwide by rental companies, concrete placement and refuse collection businesses, fire & emergency departments, municipal and airport services and defense forces, where high quality, superior performance, rugged reliability and long-term value are paramount. For more information, please visit www.oshkoshcorporation.com.

Defense Media:
Oshkosh Defense
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Source: Epicos, Oshkosh Defense

Airbus Helicopters completes delivery of final two H135s to Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force

Airbus Helicopters has successfully handed over the 14th and 15th H135 training helicopters to the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF). This marks the delivery completion of 15 H135s over the last six years. Designated as TH-135 by JMSDF, the 13 units delivered prior have been in operation since 2011.

The TH-135 is a variant of Airbus Helicopters' light twin-engine H135, specially customized for JMSDF's specific requirements for advanced training missions. The H135 was selected as the replacement for its single-engine training helicopter fleet, thanks to its unrivalled performance and easy maintenance which translates to high availability rate.

"We are delighted to be able to deliver all fifteen TH-135s on time," said Stephane Ginoux, Managing Director of Airbus Helicopters Japan. "We are committed to upkeep the highest quality of safety and efficiency of their training missions by providing prompt parts procurement, maintenance and technical support services."

The H135 is one of Airbus Helicopter's most successful light twin-engine helicopters in the 3-ton class, with a seating capacity of seven to eight passengers (five for TH-135). It provides higher payload over longer distances than other rotorcraft in its category, and delivers supreme performance envelope along with low fuel consumption. Other features include the use of a bearingless main rotor and Airbus Helicopters' signature Fenestron® shrouded tail rotor. The results are enhanced cost effectiveness, noise reduction and ground safety.

In Japan, there are currently 80 H135s operating for emergency medical services, police work, electronic news gathering, VIP transport and business aviation.

About Airbus Helicopters Japan

Airbus Helicopters Japan, formerly Eurocopter Japan, was established in 2009 as the Japanese subsidiary of Airbus Helicopters, a division of Airbus Group. It is the first foreign affiliated aircraft manufacturer to carry out direct sales, training, and customer support activities in the Japanese aeronautical sector. There are approximately 300 employees allocated at four locations, including Tokyo and Kobe. With more than 50 years of in-country presence, Airbus Helicopters Japan confirms its leadership position with a 54 percent market share overall in Japan (civil and parapublic sectors). Airbus Helicopters Japan makes Japan's sky safer, more reliable and cost-efficient by providing high quality products and services.

About Airbus Helicopters

Airbus Helicopters is a division of Airbus Group. The company provides the most efficient civil and military helicopter solutions to its customers who serve, protect, save lives and safely carry passengers in highly demanding environments. Flying more than 3 million flight hours per year, the company's in-service fleet includes some 12,000 helicopters operated by

more than 3,000 customers in 152 countries. Airbus Helicopters employs more than 23,000 people worldwide and in 2014 generated revenues of 6.5 billion Euros. In line with the company's new identity, fully integrated into Airbus Group, Airbus Helicopters has renamed its product range replacing the former "EC" designation with an "H".

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For Further Information Click Here

Source: Epicos, Airbus Helicopters

New Contract Awarded to Manufacture Next Generation Rib for the Royal Navy

This next generation Pacific 24 Mark-4 will be deployed on Royal Navy ships such as the Off Shore Patrol Vessels, as well as the new Queen Elizabeth Class aircraft carriers due to arrive in Portsmouth in 2017. The RIBs are the workhorse of the Royal Navy, deploying from ship or shore at speeds of up to 38 knots (44mph) as a rapid response craft to perform fast rescue, anti-piracy and counter-narcotics missions.

The high energy operations they perform means the strain on crews can be huge. To tackle this, the Pacific 24 Mark-4 RIB will include high performance shock absorbing seats which will minimise crew fatigue, allowing them to travel up to six-times the distance.

A team of 19 BAE Systems employees will start work in early 2016 to build the boats over the next four years at the Company's small boats manufacturing facility at Portsmouth Naval Base.

Defence Secretary Michael Fallon said: "These 60 new RIBs provide a vital capability to the Royal Navy and are a clear benefit of the £178 billion this government is investing in new military equipment.

"Built in Portsmouth dockyard this contract is not only good news for the Navy, but also for BAE Systems whose innovation has provided a modern design that will allow our armed

forces to carry out operations ranging from armed boarding including anti-piracy and counter-narcotics missions to providing emergency rescue."

Les Gregory, Product & Training Services Director at BAE Systems, said: "Our focus for the next generation Pacific 24 was to extend the operational capabilities of a boat's crew through the use of shock-absorbing seats designed to reduce driver and crew fatigue.

"The new seats provide significantly greater performance but are much heavier, so we faced an additional challenge to reduce the weight on the boat elsewhere to compensate. Structural composites and a lighter engine gave us the biggest weight savings, whilst ensuring we maintained the necessary payload requirements."

The fourth generation Pacific 24 RIB is a significant step-up from its predecessors. It features a 370HP twin turbo diesel electronic engine with inbuilt self-diagnostic technology. The boats have also gained the Safety of Life at Sea accreditation meaning they can now be used for rescue operations.

News of the contract award follows the Company's first in-water demonstration of an unmanned RIB. The BAE Systems-funded development is being designed as a potential retrofit to the Pacific 24 RIB. It has the potential to change the face of the Royal Navy by allowing crews to carry out vital tasks such as high speed reconnaissance and remote surveillance, while keeping sailors out of harm's way.

For Further Information Click Here

Source: Epicos, BAE Systems

Thales Alenia Space Wins €402 Million Contract from ESA to Build Copernicus Sentinel-1c and D Satellites

Thales Alenia Space announced today that it has signed a contract with the European Space Agency (ESA) to build the Copernicus Sentinel-1C and 1D environmental monitoring satellites, as part of Europe's Copernicus program.

Thales Alenia Space Italy was once again named prime contractor for these new satellites, as for Sentinel-1A and 1B. It is responsible for the design, development and integration of Copernicus the Sentinel-1C and 1D satellites, which will feature a C-band synthetic aperture radar (SAR), as well as advanced data management and transmission systems and onboard computer. Thales Alenia Space will supply the transmission/reception (T/R) modules and the front-end electronics, the heart of the C-band SAR antenna, which will be manufactured by Airbus Defence and Space to Thales Alenia Space's specifications.

The Copernicus Sentinel-1C and 1D satellites, to be launched as from 2021, are part of the vast Copernicus environmental monitoring and management program coordinated by the European Commission, with ESA in charge of the space segment. The Copernicus program is designed to guarantee European independence in the collection and management of data on our planet, and to support Europe's public environmental policies.

The Copernicus Sentinel-1C and D satellites will be built on the Prima platform developed by Thales Alenia Space on behalf of the Italian space agency. They will each weigh about 2,300 kilograms at launch, and will be positioned at an altitude of 700 kilometers, offering a ground resolution of 5 to 25 meters, depending on the operating mode selected.

"We are very proud to have won this major contract, since it confirms Thales Alenia Space Italy’s long-standing expertise in the construction of Earth observation satellites based on radar technology," said Donato Amoroso, Managing Director of Thales Alenia Space Italy and Deputy CEO of Thales Alenia Space. “Our selection also shows that we have the capabilities needed to meet this program's technological challenges, while contributing to Europe's environmental strategy now and in the future."

Italy plays a major role in the Copernicus program, largely through the Italian space agency ASI. The country's role reflects the excellent performance of the COSMO-SkyMed program, which demonstrated the Italian space agency’s vision and the Italian space industry's cutting-edge expertise.

The main goals of the Sentinel-1 mission are: mapping of urban areas and environmental impacts, monitoring of risks caused by movements of the Earth’s surface, surveillance of the marine environment, maritime security, monitoring of sea ice, forests and climate change, fast response to emergency services.

ESA's Sentinel program include six families of satellites, each equipped with instruments dedicated to their specific remote sensing mission. Sentinel-1 will ensure continuity with

data gathered by the ERS and Envisat radar satellites. The Sentinel-1A satellite, launched in April 2014, is now fully operational, while its twin, Sentinel-1B, scheduled for launch in the spring of 2016, is undergoing final testing at the Thales Alenia Space plant in Cannes.

About Thales Alenia Space

Thales Alenia Space, a joint venture between Thales (67%) and Finmeccanica (33%), is a key European player in space telecommunications, navigation, Earth observation, exploration and orbital infrastructures. Thales Alenia Space and Telespazio form the two parent companies' "Space Alliance", which offers a complete range of services and solutions. Because of its unrivaled expertise in dual (civil/military) missions, constellations, flexible payloads, altimetry, meteorology and high-resolution optical and radar instruments, Thales Alenia Space is the natural partner to countries that want to expand their space program. The company posted consolidated revenues in excess of 2 billion euros in 2014, and has 7,500 employees in eight countries. www.thalesaleniaspace.com

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Source: Epicos, Thales Alenia Space