



ECA Group confirms important AUV order for FR/UK underwater mine countermeasure programme

Following the announcement of the first conditional stage, the Franco-British underwater mine countermeasure (MMCM) programme, supervised by OCCAR on behalf of French Defence Procurement Agency (DGA) and UK Defence Equipment & Support (DE&S) through the joint project management of Thales/BAE, begins its manufacturing phase.

ECA Group has already taken part in designing the system during the initial design phase ([cf. press release of April 10, 2015](#)).

During this new stage, ECA Group will supply six autonomous underwater vehicles (AUV) derived from the [A27-M](#) as well as other peripheral equipment.

The A27 is the largest AUV in the range offered by ECA Group. Its A27-M version, equipped with a multi-aspect synthetic aperture sonar (SAM) supplied by Thales and additional sensors also capable of detecting contacts in the water column, is specifically designed for detection, classification and localisation operations in underwater mine-hunting missions. Equipped with a specific means of communication, these [A27-Ms](#) can be deployed individually or in "Pack" mode.

In this stage, ECA Group will also supply a launch and recovery system (LARS) used to deploy and recover these AUVs in challenging sea conditions.

Equipped with a unique, patented system aiming at detecting and grabbing a recovery cable, the [A27](#) is able to autonomously come back in the LARS deployed by the mothership, significantly limiting human intervention and preventing crew members from being exposed to danger.

The amount of this conditional stage is over 15 million euros. The robots must be delivered within a short period of time. The main part of the sales figure will therefore be entered in fiscal year 2017.



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ECA Group

The ECA Group is renowned for its expertise in robotics, automated systems, simulation and industrial processes. Ever since 1936 it has been developing complete innovative technological solutions to perform complex missions in hostile or restrictive environments.

Its products are used by a demanding international clientèle requiring the highest levels of safety and efficiency, mainly in the sectors of defence, maritime, aerospace, simulation, energy and industrial equipment.

In 2015, the Group reported revenue of 105.2 M€ for its three Departments: Robotics, Aerospace and Simulation.

ECA Group is a Groupe Gorgé company.

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