ECA Group’s Mine Countermeasures Modernisation Solution hits a key milestone: Successful Factory Acceptance Test for Latvian Navy Programme

Last June, ECA Group welcomed the Latvian Navy to carry out the Factory Acceptance Tests (FAT) for their modernised ship’s Command and Control (CC) system and Mine Identification and Disposal systems (MIDS). These systems will be soon integrated onto Latvia’s Tripartite-class Mine Hunter vessels (IMANTA Class). The Latvian Navy will be the first to be equipped with a comprehensive drone solution from ECA Group, specifically designed to be fitted during modernisation programmes of previous generation Mine Hunters.

Selected in 2020 following an international tender, ECA Group is in charge of the modernisation of the MCM capacity of the three Latvian MCM vessels. The traditional mine warfare system is completely replaced by a new command and control system and a full set of drones, all designed and manufactured by ECA Group: the **A18-M** AUV fitted with ECA Group’s **UMISAS** Sonar, the **SEASCAN** mine identification vehicle and the **K-STER** mine disposal system.

ECA Group is also responsible for the ship modification and the upgrade of the navigation system, composed of **W-ECDIS** warship electronic chart display and information system, **Gaps M7** USBL positioning system and **Phins C7** compact Inertial Navigation System by **ixblue**, as well as a new Autopilot by **SIREHNA**. During the FAT, the ship’s command and control with W-ECDIS and Autopilot, the sensors’ functionalities and interfaces were successfully tested. In addition, during the acceptance tests, the Latvian Navy successfully performed a scenario of mine identification with the SEASCAN and firing simulation with the K-STER for mine disposal.

« The work progress on this programme is fast enough. I see the big efforts from the ECA Group side to develop new sensors and systems based on our requests » Dmitrijs Jankovs, MCM squadron upgrade programme Manager.

« So far, I am satisfied of the performances of the K-STER and the SEASCAN », said Arturs Knoks, Commander of M-08, the 1st ship to be modernised.

This programme builds on the long-standing partnership between the Latvian Navy and ECA Group. The Navy has been operating ECA Group’s **A9 autonomous underwater vehicle (AUV)** for several years. With this modernisation contract, 10 K-STER mine disposal systems, 2 SEASCAN mine identification systems and a **A18-M mid-size AUV** with their common software suite will be delivered for each of the 3 ships to be modernised.
By upgrading the mine warfare equipment on existing vessels, ECA Group brings state-of-the-art capabilities at a cost-effective price to navies while enabling them to extend the life of their fleet already in service.

This toolbox can be installed on any conventional mine countermeasures vessels or on non-dedicated ships. ECA Group offers this modernisation solution to all navies that intend to keep and optimise their conventional mine countermeasures vessels or consider the acquisition of pre-owned vessels.

About iXblue

iXblue is a global high-tech company specializing in the design and manufacturing of advanced marine, photonics and autonomy technologies. The group in-house expertise includes innovative systems and solutions devoted to inertial navigation, subsea positioning, underwater imaging, as well as shipbuilding and test & simulation. iXblue technologies support Civil and Defense customers in carrying out their sea, land and space operations with maximum safety, efficiency and reliability. Employing a workforce of 750 people worldwide, iXblue conducts its business in over 60 countries. [https://www.ixblue.com/](https://www.ixblue.com/)

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