EUROSATORY Daily.

DAY 1

EDR SHOW DAILIES
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CIO'S VBM155 ADDRESSES INCREASING INDIRECT FIRE NEEDS

BY VALERIO DEL GRANDE

HALL 6 STAND C177

In November 2025 Leonardo showcased the technology demonstrator of a fully automated artillery turret intended for installation on a vehicular platform to generate a self-propelled high mobility howitzer. In the following seven months Leonardo completed the design and started manufacturing the turret prototype. As for the vehicular platform IDV, now part of Leonardo, is producing a 10x10 version of the VBM NG (for New Generation), that builds upon and considerably improves the legacy VBM 8x8 currently in service with the Italian Army. The platform and the artillery system are to be integrated within the framework of the CIO Consortium (50% IDV - 50% Leonardo) into a prototype of what will be known as VBM 155, for which the first firing trials are planned before year end.

The HITFIRE 155/52 turret leverages previous developments on a 155/52 mm gun aimed at upgrade programmes that did not materia-

continues p 4


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EDITORIAL

EUROSATORY 2026: THE SHAPE OF CONFLICT, THE SHAPE OF THE FUTURE

BY JOSEPH ROUKOZ

In a world once again confronted with the stark reality of high-intensity warfare, Eurosatory opens in Paris at a moment when defence is no longer an abstract debate, but an immediate necessity. The exhibition arrives as a powerful reminder that the battlefields of tomorrow are not being imagined in the future; they are being designed, tested and negotiated today.

With more than 2,500 companies taking part, this edition confirms Eurosatory's standing as one of the defence industry's most consequential gatherings. Its significance lies not merely in scale, but in what that scale represents: the convergence of industrial ambition, operational urgency and strategic reflection. From armoured mobility to air defence, from robotics to digital dominance, the show mirrors the profound transformation now under way across the military landscape.

The return of war to Europe, the multiplication of regional crises and the accelerating pace of technological change have forced armies and governments to rethink old certainties. On the exhibition floor, those shifts are visible everywhere. Battlefield digitisation, force protection, industrial sovereignty, resilience and information superiority are no longer fashionable concepts for conference speeches; they are the foundations of credible military power in an age of contested space and compressed decision-making.

What makes Eurosatory distinctive is that it goes beyond being a showcase of equipment. It is a place where doctrine meets industry, where political intent meets technological possibility, and where the defence sector takes the measure of its own future. The conversations held here are not incidental. They shape procurement priorities, influence strategic choices and help define the contours of military preparedness in the years ahead.

For France, hosting the event is also a statement of position. It reaffirms Paris as a central node in the global defence and security network, at once host, facilitator and participant in a debate that extends far beyond national borders. In that sense, Eurosatory is more than a fair. It is a mirror of the strategic anxieties of our time, and a workshop for the capabilities that will answer them.

At a time when peace depends increasingly on credible strength, Eurosatory reminds us that deterrence is built long before crisis breaks. It is built in factories, in laboratories, in procurement offices and, for one week in Paris, across the aisles of this essential exhibition. ●

lise. It features a 23 litre JBMOU-compliant chamber, two recoil brakes and a pepperbox muzzle brake which reduces recoil at less than 60 tonnes, recoil travel being less than 750 mm. The turret with a full load of 30 rounds and 30 full charges (180 elements) has a combat mass under 13 tonnes. The loading mechanism is based on a rotating magazine, ammunition on the left side and charges on the right, a robotic arm bringing them in sequence to the chamber, the system allowing loading at any elevation angle from -2.5° to +70°, a chain-driven rigid chain rammer bringing them into the chamber and an automated system adding the primer. Before loading, the ammunition is brought to a programming station, as developers are considering the use of Vulcano guided rounds. The estimated maximum rate of fire is 10 rounds per minute, with a 5-6 rounds Multi-Round Simultaneous Impact capability.

Compared to the technology demonstrator, which featured a reduced ammunition load and a lower velocity to allow better appreciation of the movements, the prototype has all basic functions and all autoloader movements have been optimised for industrialisation, including the fire control system. All additional capabilities will be added in a spiral development process.

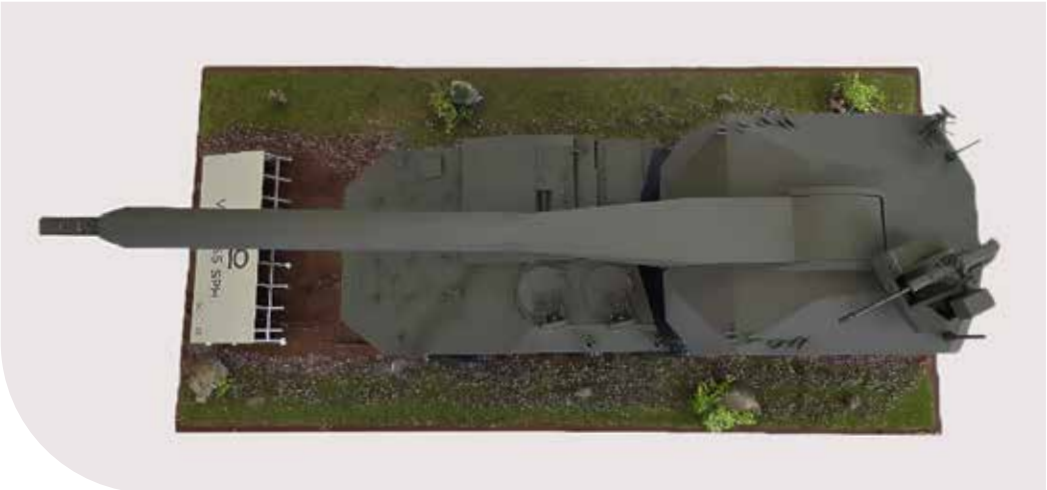
For self-defence against land and air threats the HITFIRE 155/52 is offered with a HITROLE C-UAS RCWS armed with the Blaze30 30x113 mm.
Coming to the platform, adding one axle to the 8x8 VBM NG chassis allows increasing the maximum combat mass to 40 tonnes from the current 37, 18 tonnes representing the platform dry mass, 13 tonnes the turret, and 6 tonnes add-on armour, fuel, crew, and other equipment: this leaves a growth potential of 3 tonnes for new subsystems. Beside increasing combat mass, it also improves mobility, as it allows for an optimal VCI (Vehicle Cone Index), a parameter for evaluating mobility on soft terrain. The VBM 10x10 is powered by a second-generation IDV V-6 TCA 720 hp common rail engine with electronic control, coupled to a ZF transmission, part of a new breed of engines of which V-8 and V-12 versions are being unveiled at Eurosatory. The powerpack is located on the right, while the driver and the commander/gunner are on the left, in tandem configuration.

The rear part of the hull has been modified, allowing installation of the HITFIRE 155 turret in a low position, which keeps the centre of gravity of the whole vehicle almost as low as in the VBM NG combat version. This not only permits high road speeds, keeping the system within railway loading gauge, but also allows for lowering the point of application of the recoil forces with beneficial effects on stability, especially when firing at a sustained rate of fire.

The suspension was optimised to cope with the 40 tonnes load, and according to dynamic simulations will also allow firing without the need of outriggers. This will empower the conduct of shoot-and-scoot missions in less than 150 seconds, with the first round fired 10 seconds after the howitzer has come to a complete halt. CIO engineers are already considering shooting on the move. Manoeuvrability is similar to that of the 8x8 version; the chassis is only around 400 mm longer, 8.57 m, and the turning radius is only marginally higher, which led to the decision to retain the same steering system. Other steering solutions are available should a customer require them.

The VBM 155 is 11.10 metres long, 4.38 metres high and 3.15 metres wide.

CIO is developing the VBM 155 with the export market in mind, though it might arouse domestic interest, considering the Italian acquisition programme is yet to be finalised. ●



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FROM SECURITY CONSUMER TO STRATEGIC PRODUCER, FRANCE'S DEFENCE MINISTER CHARTS EUROPE'S INDUSTRIAL AWAKENING

BY JULIEN CHABROUT

In this interview, Minister Catherine Vautrin speaks to the Eurosatory Show Daily about the major challenges facing European defence in a period of growing uncertainty. Against the backdrop of concerns over American disengagement and the need for greater strategic autonomy, she outlines France's vision for strengthening Europe's industrial and military capabilities.

The prospect of American disengagement, particularly with regard to NATO, is a concern shared by many Western countries, especially in Europe. In this context, several of our neighbours are looking to acquire European military equipment in order to reduce their dependence on the United States. How can the Old Continent sustainably and effectively become a producer?

Europe must move from being a consumer of security to becoming a provider of security. This is a matter of sovereignty and responsibility for our states. To be strong, we must be able to act together: to be willing, capable, interoperable and productive. We cannot achieve this if we depend on the goodwill of a third party whose priorities may differ from our own.

European defence budgets are rising significantly (+14% in 2025 according to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)): the challenge is not only to increase spending, but to allocate these resources optimally in order to strengthen our operational and armament capabilities. If these efforts do not translate into genuine strategic autonomy, they will not be sustainable over time and will not provide greater protection.

In concrete terms, states must structure the European Defence Technological and Industrial Base (EDTIB) so that it becomes competitive, by investing in Europe's production capacity, acting swiftly, and cooperating intelligently while respecting national sovereignty. We must be proactive. We must identify common needs, make use where necessary of financial tools established at EU level, identify industrial capabilities across our territories, and encourage cooperation at programme level between industry and governments. European preference is not a dogmatic stance; it is a strategic necessity. Prioritising European procurement represents a collective shift in mindset, requiring mutual

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trust, shared ambition and industrial cooperation.

The strengths of the French defence industry-its expertise, its ability to increase production rates, to manage ambitious programmes, to build partnerships and to export-must serve the EDTIB. The first symposium of European armaments directors, followed by a meeting with Chiefs of Defence Staff in Paris in 2025, aimed to foster coalitions of nations around concrete industrial projects. The SAFE regulation, in which France participates, supports investment through joint procurement from the European defence industry while focusing on priority capabilities. This is how we transition to a producer model: through a change in mindset, national efforts and a European reflex.

French defence primes have been under intense pressure since the start of the war in Ukraine and the return of high-intensity conflict on European soil. How is our defence industry evolving, and how can it accelerate production?

France did not wait until 2022 to rearm, but there has now been a genuine scaling up of production. The factory is our first weapon. When I announced the "combat DGA", it was to meet two major imperatives: accelerating production rates and reconfiguring the industrial model to gain mass. This new production logic aims to adapt to the pace of the threat and to produce faster.

The update to the Military Programming Law that I am defending before Parliament provides for the possibility of imposing the creation of strategic stockpiles on certain operators of vital importance, in order to address supply risks for key materials. This year, for the first time, the DGA and the French Army conducted a requisition exercise to strengthen national preparedness for high-intensity conflict.

In addition, since the factory is our primary weapon, it is essential to train in its use. I therefore requested a new exercise to test our industry's ability to respond to high-intensity demands. This exercise, named Endurance, took place in early June with the support of industry, yielding valuable lessons for both the Ministry and our industrial base in addressing the challenges of rearmament.

What is the current status of Franco-German cooperation on the MGCS (Main Ground Combat System) programme, the future European main battle tank? What are the key milestones ahead?

France strongly supports this project in cooperation with Germany, which is intended to deliver a revolution in the land domain and address the challenges of ground combat by 2045. Together with Germany, we share an ambitious capability roadmap that serves the interests of both countries: financial sustainability and the competitiveness of European industry are shared priorities. In light of the difficulties encountered in this cooperative industrial project, which have slowed MGCS development, we have decided to launch an interim capability to avoid a capability gap in 2037, when the Leclerc tanks are due to be withdrawn from service. This capability is designed from the outset as a precursor to the MGCS system, representing its first building block. The objective is not to design the last tank of a past generation, but the first weapons system of a future generation.

The industrial dimension of MGCS brings together Nexter and KMW (KNDS). How does France ensure the preservation of its technological sovereignty and expertise in armoured systems while developing a competitive EDTIB?

KNDS is a leading land systems player, born from the merger of Germany's KMW and France's Nexter. Cooperation acts as a force multiplier both operationally and in capability terms: it enables mass, sustains production lines, strengthens interoperability and builds collective resilience. Once the operational requirement is clearly defined, the challenge is to strike the right balance

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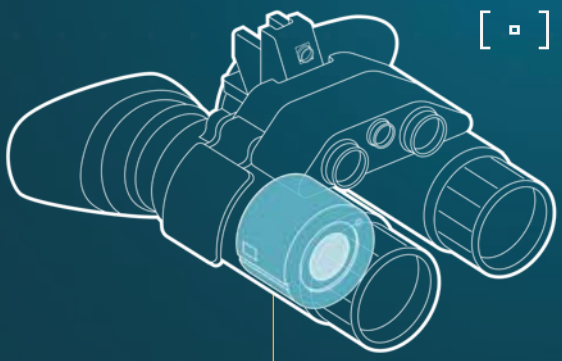

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EXOSENS: A GLOBAL LEADER IN NIGHT VISION

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Innovation remains at the core of Exosens' DNA. This is evident in the development of 5G technology, which is a significant technological advancement. Its cutting-edge design delivers superior image clarity, greater detail and improved contrast, ensuring enhanced situational awareness and precision in night-time operations. The 5G's unparalleled performance and exceptional image quality provide soldiers with decisive operational superiority. By continuously pushing technological boundaries, Exosens anticipates the future needs of defence stakeholders and evolving operational environments.

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between sharing expertise and maintaining industrial and technological sovereignty, while avoiding any risk of unwanted dependency. It is in this context that France is committed to ensuring the development and positioning of KNDS France within the group.

Beyond MGCS, how does France plan to modernise its armoured capabilities in the medium term? What programmes, particularly in terms of complementary systems (infantry fighting vehicles, counter-drone systems, etc.), are planned to maintain the superiority of our land forces?

The launch of the interim capability, mirroring Germany's Leopard 3 approach, is intended to avoid a capability gap while serving as a precursor to MGCS. In addition, the mid-life upgrade of the Leclerc tanks is ongoing: 160 units will have been upgraded by 2030 and 200 by 2035. The Scorpion programme continues and will renew 80% of medium-weight armoured vehicles by 2030 and the entirety by 2034. We are also developing complementary systems to maintain France's superiority in land and air-land combat: strengthening counter-drone capabilities with an increase in systems deployed on Serval vehicles, for example in the updated Military Programming Law; improving and enhancing connectivity resilience through hybrid radio and satellite networks; and expanding the use of drones across all operational needs through rapid developments under the "drone pact".

The Ministry of Finance is calling for budgetary restraint across government for the 2027 budget, yet your ministry is the only one spared from spending cuts. Why is it essential to safeguard defence funding?

The increase in the defence budget is justified by a worsening environment marked by profound shifts in geopolitical balances and the brutal return of force in conflict resolution: France and its European partners are fully aware of this. We often speak of preserving social achievements, but less so of preserving security gains. Living freely and in peace comes at a cost-that of our defence. Failing to make this major effort would be a strategic mistake.

The budget is increasing, and that obliges us: we are rationalising our spending. At the same time, I am vigilant that higher budgets do not lead to higher programme costs; we must be more demanding on pricing. This is the purpose of the "cost killing" unit, which scrutinises every cost in detail and ensures that military requirements are properly calibrated. This requires greater transparency

from industry, as well as vigilance within the Ministry itself, in a logic of efficiency and savings-we owe this to French taxpayers.

The update to the 2024-2030 Military Programming Law (LPM) adds €36 billion in response to rising threats. What changes should defence companies expect, particularly in terms of orders?

The updated law strengthens investment in priority areas such as munitions (€8.5 billion additional over 2026–2030), drones (€2 billion additional), and long-range fires (+€1.7 billion), accelerates rearmament, launches major capability acquisitions and reinforces the scaling up of our defence capabilities.

For industry, the increase in the defence budget translates directly into increased orders. Each contract awarded provides companies with visibility, secures skills and drives innovation. In 2026, we aim to place €42 billion in orders through the DGA, around 90% of which will involve companies based in France. This will provide unprecedented visibility, enabling companies to invest in modernising their production capabilities. Subcontractors must also benefit from this visibility to avoid bottlenecks and ensure the ramp-up of our industrial model.

The pace is changing: companies must be able to meet short-term operational needs and urgent requirements while also addressing long-term needs and shaping the future of weapons systems. We must design, produce and deliver to the armed forces more rapidly.

Why is it important for you to attend Eurosatory? What is your agenda there?

Eurosatory is the world's leading event for the land and air-land defence sector. It showcases the excellence of the French defence industrial base, serving a stronger European defence industry. It is a key forum for exchanges between political decision-makers, armed forces, industry and international partners. I will meet with my European and international counterparts, as well as major prime contractors and smaller companies that form the backbone of France's industrial and economic fabric. The exhibition will help advance the Ministry's key priorities: strengthening production capacity and enhancing capability cooperation. ●

MBDA UNVEILS NCM/LCM MK2

BY VALERIO DEL GRANDE

EXT PE6A
D179

At Eurosatory MBDA is unveiling the Mk2 version of its Naval Cruise Missile/Land Cruise Missile (NCM/LCM). A high subsonic missile, 6.5 m long and with a mass at launch of 1,400 kg, the naval variant is designed for vertical launch from the compact A70 SYLVER vertical launcher, the same as is used for Aster surface-to-air missiles in shipboard installations, and from submarine 533 mm torpedo tubes. The NCM is in service with the French Navy, a new order being awaited in 2026.

Integrating the NCM on a land platform generated the LCM, reducing development cost and time.

The NCM/LCM Mk2 is the next generation of this missile, which will be available in 2030. MBDA boosted its performances in several key operational areas. Considering lessons learned from recent conflicts in which GNSS signal are regularly jammed, the Mk2 is fitted with a next-generation anti-jamming feature that strengthens its navigation capability in GNSS-denied environments. The aerodynamics have changed thanks to a new front fuselage, which not only increases flight performance and widens the flight envelope, especially in terms of ceiling, but also reduces the missile radar cross section, making the missile stealthier. Exact range of the current service variant has never been revealed, but French military sources define the NCM/LCM as a "deep-strike attack" weapon with a "range exceeding 1,000 km". The range of the Mk2 will be further extended, though no further details are yet available, as is also the case regarding the warhead: "increased lethality" is the company's rather bland wording. ●

INDRA - SPANISH LEADER FOR INNOVATIVE MILITARY VEHICLE SOLUTIONS

BY DAVID OLIVER

Indra Group is a leader in the digitalisation of land vehicles in Europe with next-generation systems and has developed some of the most cutting-edge drones, counter-drone systems, electronic warfare systems and radars on the market.

The 8x8 Dragón vehicle developed by TESS Defence, in which Indra Group is the main shareholder, will be displayed for the first time at a major international defence event.

Indra Group will also showcase its mission system for military vehicles, which manages the vehicle's sensors and systems; its battle management systems and 360° vision, which facilitate coordination between land units and command networks; and AI applied to military vehicles to support decision-making and facilitate mission execution.

Also on display is the Tarsis VTOL drone, designed for ISR missions, and a loitering munition drone capable of carrying out precision attacks against targets in depth. Also the ARACNE counter-drone system, one of the most advanced solutions for countering drone attacks, which can be deployed in fixed, semi-static and mobile configurations on land vehicles and which at Eurosatory will be shown integrated with a SmartEar RF detection system; the Brontes jammer for signal interference; and the NEMUS AESA radar, capable of detecting threats and providing precise data for their neutralisation.

Another of the new systems Indra will bring to Eurosatory is its communications EW system mounted, as a payload, on a tethered drone flying connected to a high-mobility 4x4 vehicle. The system can jam communications and protect friendly units as they advance, and its development forms part of the company's commitment to lightweight EW solutions.

ARMMO DEFENSE TECHNOLOGIES' BANDIT-X INTERCEPTOR DRONE

BY VALERIO DEL GRANDE

HALL 6 STAND J214

ARMMO Defense Technologies, a Madrid-headquartered company with operations in Spain, Ukraine, the Middle East and Africa, earmarked Eurosatory 2026 to launch its Bandit-X interceptor drone. Bandit-X is designed to be launched from ground manned and unmanned platforms, fixed ramps, and naval vessels. The front of the fuselage hosts the sensor, in the form of a day or a thermal camera - either digital or analogue, the latter less subject to jamming. The cylindrical section hosts the lethal package; the 800 grams maximum payload allows for carrying up to two fragmentation warheads, depending on target type. The rear fuselage is fitted with four short wings in an X configuration, each carrying an electric motor activating two-blade pushing propellers.

After launch an inertial platform guides the Bandit-X towards the target, the attack phase being carried out under visual-assisted guidance, the optronic suite locking it on target once the operator has designated and confirmed it; this allows the system to operate in GNSS-denied scenarios. At around 5 kg, the Bandit-X is optimised for tail-chase interception, reaching the target from behind, flying beneath it, then detonating its warhead. It can reach a maximum speed of 350 km/h, a maximum altitude of 5,000 metres, and a tactical range of 15 km.

The company has invested heavily in a new facility hosting multiple 3D printers to ensure mass production of the innovative 3D-printed drone. This manufacturing mode also allows for easy localisation in customer countries.

The ARMMO Defense Technologies portfolio includes several unmanned platforms, for the time being mostly naval. At Eurosatory the company is showing its Bandit-X integrated on board the 12 metres ARW-39CAT-A catamaran USV. A longer-range derivative of the Bandit-X, fitted with swept wings and a longer fuselage, is already in development. ●

EDGE EUROPE: A NEW MODEL FOR EUROPEAN DEFENCE

BY VALERIO DEL GRANDE

HALL 5A STAND G415

Abu Dhabi-based advanced technology and defence group, EDGE, has launched EDGE Europe, a fully European commercial enterprise, headquartered in Paris. The new French-registered company introduces a fundamentally different way of building defence capability, one founded on technology-first industrialisation, rapid development, and an open, partner-driven ecosystem, designed to deliver sovereign capability faster than traditional industry allows.

EDGE Europe's operational base in France is the first stage of a long-term commitment to Europe as a whole. The launch is anchored by two sites: a strategic head office in central Paris, which will focus on leading government engagement, partnerships, and investment across the region, and an engineering and manufacturing hub in Bordeaux, driving design, integration, and rapid development of advanced systems.

EDGE Group Chairman, H.E. Faisal Al Bannai, said: "Europe stands at a defining moment for its defence, and EDGE has come to be part of its future. We are here to invest in its talent, build alongside its industry, and create lasting capability on European soil. EDGE Europe pairs the speed of a new generation of defence company with the depth of an established industrial group, and we build hand in hand with our partners."

The ability to combine domains that are typically siloed across separate companies positions EDGE Europe to deliver the connected, multi-domain capability modern defence increasingly demands. The new company will work with partners across Europe, from established primes to emerging defence technology firms, universities, and research centres. EDGE Europe plans to recruit and develop European talent, create high-skilled engineering and industrial roles, and build technology on European soil for customers in the region and beyond.

EDGE's European ambitions are already underpinned by a growing industrial base, including acquisitions of major stakes in key companies across the region and strategic partnerships. ●

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ELT GROUP EW SIMULATION GOES MULTIDOMAIN

BY LUCA PERUZZI

In an operational context that is increasingly complex, information superiority is achieved today through the ability to operate simultaneously in multiple domains - land, air, sea, space and cyber - and to effectively manage the electromagnetic spectrum. For ELT Group, this means integrating data, sensors, and analysis capabilities into a single architecture, enabling rapid and informed decisions even in high-intensity scenarios. The multidomain concept, in fact, is not only a technological paradigm, but an operational approach that makes it possible to transform the enormous volume of signals available in the electromagnetic spectrum into a concrete strategic advantage.

It is precisely this approach that is manifest in the work of ELT Group, which at Eurosatory 2026 presents a land-domain demonstration in which visitors will have an immersive experience inside the Electronic Warfare Simulation Lab.

This is an advanced and high-fidelity simulation centre, designed to allow operators to train in realistic scenarios, testing their ability to analyse and identify radar threats and apply electronic countermeasures while assessing their effectiveness. The core of the demonstration is represented by the so-called "Demo Room", where missions in a land environment are reproduced with the possibility of inserting, in real time, data and information to build operational scenarios of any type. In these scenarios, threat surveillance and detection activities come into play, including counter-uncrewed systems (C-UAS) capabilities.

All collected data are then integrated and fused, always in real time, providing a unified representation through a C2 system displayed on a large central LED wall.

The demonstration thus highlights the value of integration between sensors, simulation, and decision-making capabilities, showing how EW technologies can support multidomain operations in a coherent and effective way, transforming the complexity of the electromagnetic spectrum into a tool for operational superiority.

The demonstration can be visited every day at ELT Group's stand from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. each day.

BULLSEYE™ BY GENERAL ATOMICS: PRECISION ENGAGEMENT REDEFINED

BY JOSEPH ROUKOZ

At Eurosatory, General Atomics is set to showcase its Bullseye™ system, a next-generation precision engagement solution designed to meet the evolving demands of modern contested battlefields. Developed with a focus on flexibility, accuracy, and rapid deployment, Bullseye™ reflects the company's continued expansion beyond its well-known unmanned aerial platforms into advanced strike capabilities.

Bullseye™ is engineered as a highly adaptable precision-guided system, capable of being integrated across multiple platforms, including unmanned aircraft systems (UAS). Its modular architecture allows operators to tailor payload configurations depending on mission requirements, ranging from coordinated multi-axis attack profiles to direct engagement roles.

The system leverages advanced guidance technologies, combining GPS/GNSS-independent navigation with an all-weather EO/IR seeker and Automatic Target Recognition (ATR) for enhanced accuracy in contested environments. Its design emphasises low collateral effects, making it particularly suited for urban operations and complex operational theatres where precision is critical. A low-signature, terrain-avoiding flight profile also enhances survivability in A2/AD environments.

In terms of technical characteristics, Bullseye™ is expected to feature a compact form factor enabling extended operational reach while maintaining a reduced logistical footprint. Its compact design facilitates carriage by a wide range of platforms, while its digital mission planning tools enable coordinated, multi axis attack profiles and seamless integration into modern command-and-control architectures.

General Atomics has also prioritised ease of use, with streamlined mission planning tools and rapid deployment capabilities that allow operators to react swiftly to dynamic threats. The system's reliability and scalability position it as a versatile solution for both conventional forces and special operations units. Bullseye operates autonomously while maintaining man in the loop decision authority.

With Bullseye™, General Atomics underscores its commitment to delivering precision, adaptability, and operational efficiency. As defence forces continue to seek agile and cost-effective strike options, Bullseye™ stands out as a compelling addition to the precision-guided munitions landscape.

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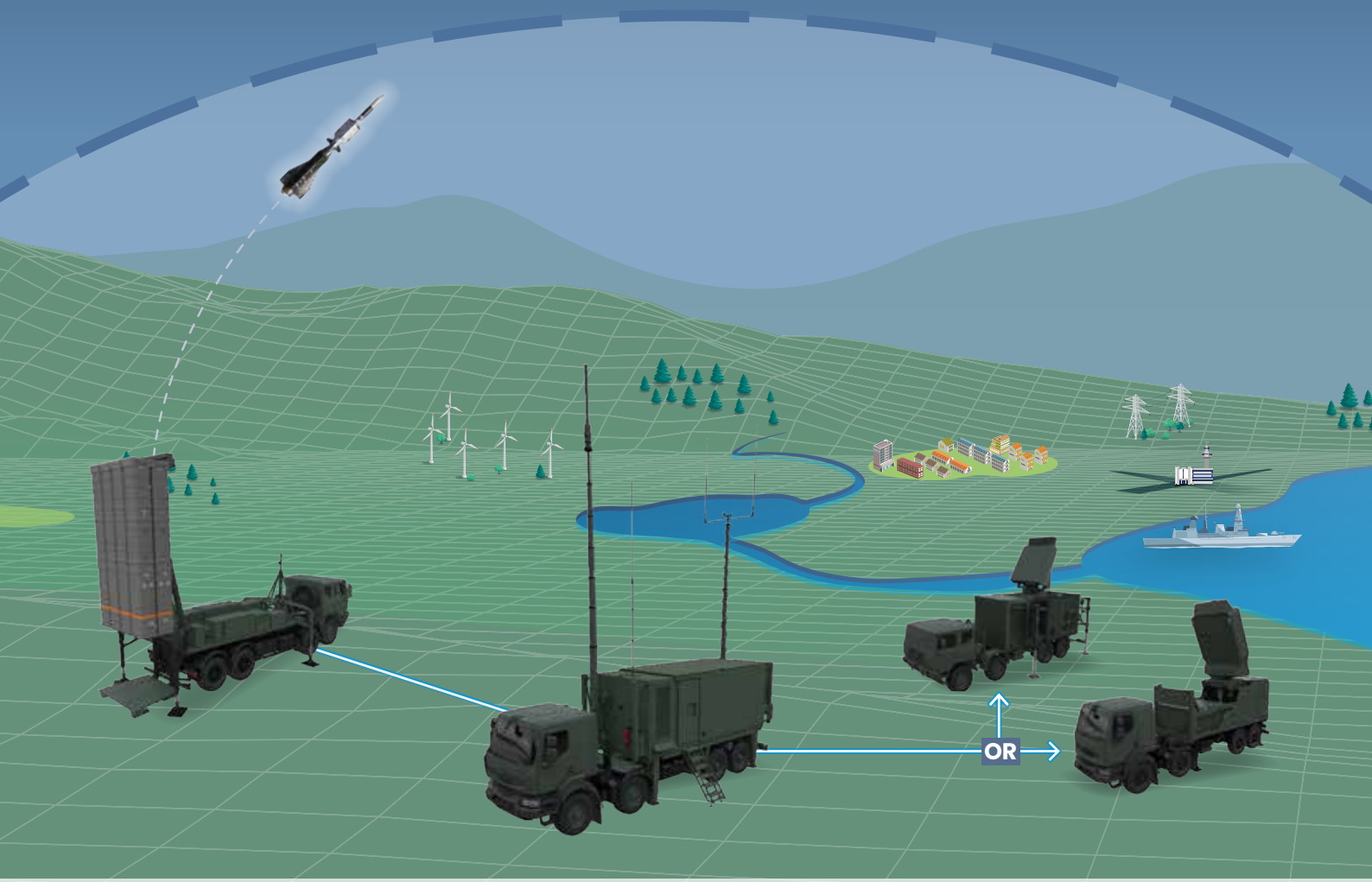

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SALZGITTER UNVEILS 'PARABELLA', A NEW GENERATION OF MOBILE PROTECTIVE SHELTERS

BY JOSEPH ROUKOZ

HALL 6 STAND G360

At Eurosatory, Salzgitter AG is presenting its innovative mobile shelter system, Parabella, a robust and highly resilient solution designed to enhance force protection in high-intensity operational environments. Built around the company's advanced SECURE 500® high-strength steel, the system reflects a growing demand for deployable protection capable of withstanding both conventional and asymmetric threats.

At the core of the Parabella concept lies a load-bearing structural element manufactured from 16 mm-thick SECURE 500® steel. This ring-shaped component, measuring 3,250 mm in diameter and approximately 900 mm in height, weights around 3,300 kg and serves as a central protective and structural module within the shelter architecture. Originally conceived for modern bunker construction, it has been adapted into a modular, mobile solution suited to rapidly evolving battlefield conditions.

The Parabella system is designed to provide a closed, highly resistant protective envelope for deployed personnel. Its steel structure ensures comprehensive protection against gunfire, fragmentation and blast effects, while maintaining operational functionality through integrated firing ports and observation sectors. This dual capability enables troops to remain protected without sacrificing situational awareness or combat effectiveness.

A key strength of the system lies in its modularity and rapid deployability. Parabella can be quickly installed in forward positions, offering immediate protection with minimal logistical footprint. This makes it particularly relevant for expeditionary forces and units operating in contested or exposed environments where traditional fortifications are impractical.

The system has undergone extensive testing and validation. Certified in accordance with Ukrainian standards and codified to NATO requirements, Parabella has also been field-tested under real combat conditions by Ukrainian forces. Feedback from operational use has informed further refinements, underscoring the system's practical reliability.

In terms of resilience, test results have exceeded initial expectations. The shelter has demonstrated resistance to a wide spectrum of threats, including small arms fire up to 14.5 mm armour-piercing incendiary rounds, direct hits from 152 mm high-explosive artillery shells, and the simultaneous detonation of two 120 mm mortar mines. It has also proven capable of withstanding attacks from shaped-charge weapons such as the RPG-7.

Through Parabella, Salzgitter is positioning itself at the intersection of advanced materials engineering and battlefield survivability. By combining high ballistic performance, structural integrity and operational flexibility, the company is addressing the evolving protection requirements of modern armed forces.

As conflicts increasingly highlight the need for rapid, adaptable and resilient defensive solutions, systems such as Parabella are likely to play a significant role in enhancing troop survivability on future battlefields.

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GENERAL ATOMICS
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CDLE, A COUNTER-DRONE LASER EFFECTOR FROM ST ENGINEERING

BY VALERIO DEL GRANDE

The rapid proliferation of small drones needs C-UAS solutions that deliver fast, precise, and controlled neutralisation. A layered defence, one of its effectors of choice is certainly based on a laser beam capable to neutralise incoming threats with high repetition rate, effective against swarm attacks.

ST Engineering of Singapore is showcasing its Counter Drone Laser Effector (CDLE), a platform-agnostic solution for C-UAS applications. Its compact size, 1.4x1.0x1.8 metres, and with a reduced mass of around 500 kg, enables integration on various platforms, from pick-up trucks to fixed installations.

The integrated optical design aligns the high energy laser (HEL) and fine track sensor along a shared optical axis and aperture, eliminating parallax and removing the need for field boresight calibration, while focusing and directing the HEL beam onto the target. A near-infrared laser illuminator illuminates the target under low-light or night conditions to support fine tracking. The coarse tracking sensor comprise a visible zoom camera and a Mid-Wave Infrared zoom camera, enabling target detection and coarse tracking in both day and night conditions.

The CDLE laser has a 3-kW power output and is designed to neutralise Class 1 micro-UAVs. The system has an onboard electrical energy storage that provides 10 hours of surveillance or 6 minutes of HEL firing. When the electrical energy storage system is low, it can be swapped or recharged linking it to an external power source, such as a vehicle alternator or a 230 V AC power grid. CDLE has a laser firing duty cycle of 2 minutes on and 4 minutes off, with a maximum firing duration of 6 minutes, equivalent to three firing cycles. Typical dwell time is approximately 10 seconds at 1 km and 5 seconds at 0.5 km against a Class 1 micro-UAVs.

The CDLE is fitted with an inertial navigation system ensuring real-time orientation. It can be integrated in C-UAS systems receiving target detection and cueing information from the upper echelon. In Q4/26 the company intends introducing a 5-kW variant that will potentially increase the range or reduce dwell time against Class 1 micro-UAVs. ●

ASELSAN SHARPENS ITS EDGE WITH INTEGRATED COMBAT SOLUTIONS

BY JOSEPH ROUKOZ

At EUROSATORY 2026, ASELSAN will showcase a focused portfolio of advanced defence technologies tailored to the requirements of modern and increasingly complex battlefields. The Turkish defence company is highlighting capabilities across air defence, counter-UAV warfare, electronic warfare, precision strike systems and autonomous maritime operations, reinforcing its ambition to provide fully integrated operational solutions.

One of the centrepieces of the exhibition is the KALKAN II/M mobile search radar. Mounted on a vehicle platform, the system is designed to detect, track and classify a wide range of aerial threats. Supporting layered air and missile defence architectures, it enhances situational awareness for deployed forces through rapid target detection and accurate cueing.

ASELSAN will also place significant emphasis on its DRONEDEF concept, a comprehensive counter-drone architecture that combines the İHTAR, GÖKBERK, KORKUT 100/25 SB and EJDERHA systems. By integrating kinetic, directed-energy and electromagnetic effects, the solution provides operators with multiple response options against threats ranging from small commercial drones to sophisticated coordinated swarms. Systems such as GÖKBERK and EJDERHA demonstrate ASELSAN's growing focus on advanced defeat mechanisms, including laser and electromagnetic technologies.

In the electronic warfare domain, the KORAL AD system is designed to detect, analyse and counter hostile radar emitters, helping to reduce enemy sensing and targeting capabilities in contested electromagnetic environments.

ASELSAN's precision-strike portfolio includes the TOLUN L, TOLUN IRR and LGK munitions, all compatible with UAV platforms. The company will also display the KILIÇ family of autonomous underwater vehicles, reflecting the increasing role of unmanned systems in future maritime operations and undersea missions..

GENERAL FABIEN MANDON: "FRANCE MUST SHIFT ITS WARFIGHTING MINDSET NOW"

BY JULIEN CHABROUT

In a rapidly deteriorating global security environment marked by accelerating crises, shifting power balances and the return of high-intensity warfare, France's Chief of the Defence Staff, Général Fabien Mandon, lays out a clear message: adaptation is no longer optional. Drawing on lessons from the large-scale ORION 26 exercise and recent conflicts such as Ukraine, he explains how the French Armed Forces are evolving - scaling up, modernising and embracing a fundamental change in mindset to remain ready for both urgent shocks and prolonged conflict.

You took up your post on 1 September 2025, more than three years after the start of the war in Ukraine and just months before the outbreak of conflict in the Middle East. How are you approaching this rapidly deteriorating geopolitical environment?

First, these developments are not a surprise. We had identified underlying trends. The first is a growing lack of restraint, both in the use of force and in rhetoric, which is becoming increasingly brutal.

We are also witnessing a breakdown in the international rules designed to govern relations between states and prevent conflict. These disruptions also affect our system of values, which are now being challenged. Our objective is not to impose them, but to defend them, as they are the product of our shared history - freedom, equality, fraternity - what we collectively believe in. Climate disruption is also a factor. Beyond being a major concern - and sometimes an existential one for certain countries - it fuels crises and conflicts.

Finally, we are entering a period of imbalance, where regions that have long been stable, or only recently stabilised through considerable effort, are now becoming fragile. This is true in Europe, the Caucasus, the Near and Middle East, and in Africa. In reality, no region is unaffected. Demographic trends, which are less frequently discussed, will also have significant impacts on our societies. Jean Bodin wrote in the 16th century, "there is no wealth but men." This remains true today, and demography continues to be a factor of power.

While we had identified these trends, we underestimated the speed at which they would accelerate. In short, there is no time to lose - that is how I approach the current context. I do so without fear, because the French Armed Forces are strong: through the quality of the men and

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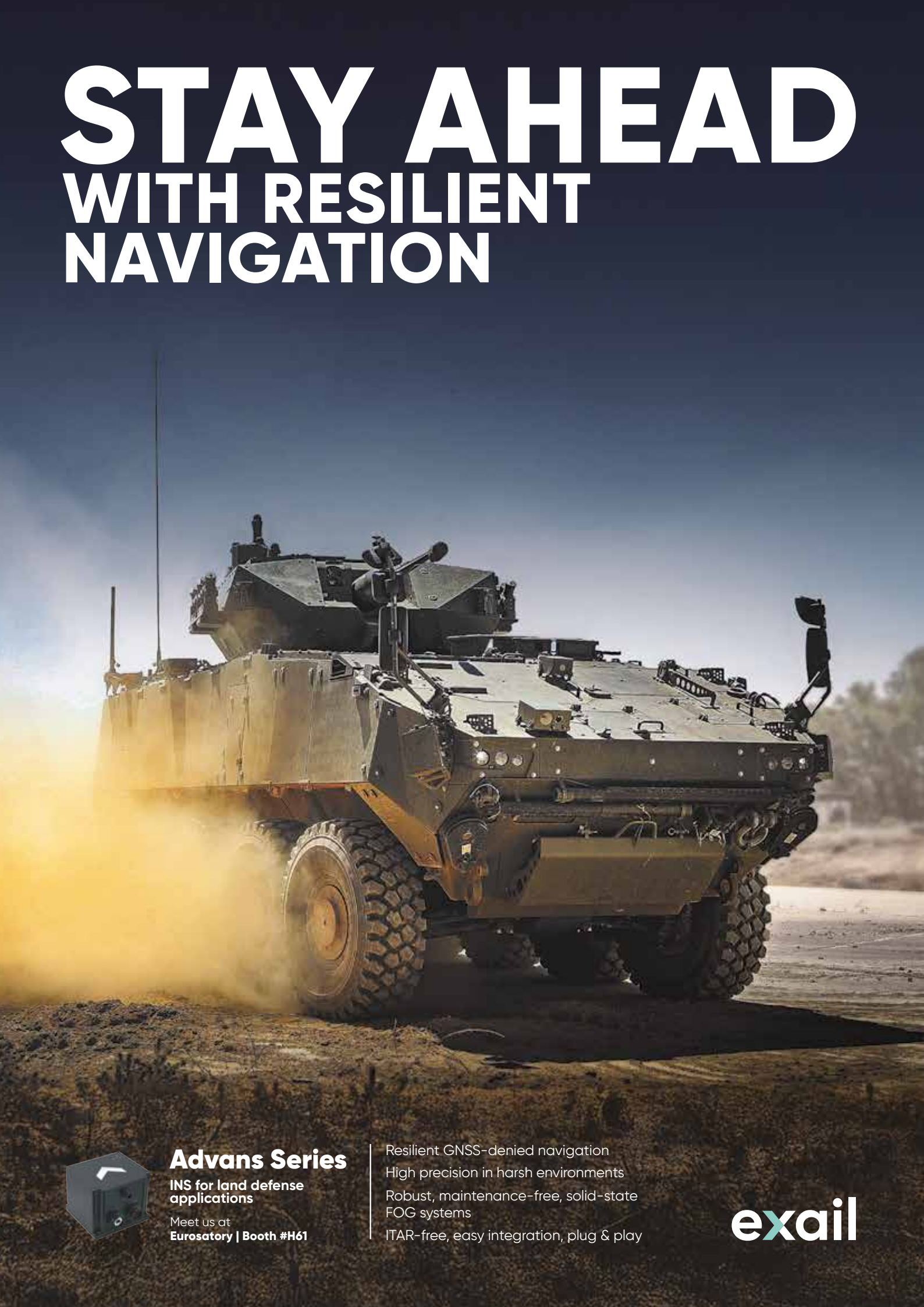

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women who serve, the unwavering support of the public and the efforts made in recent years, which must continue. But I also approach it with clear-eyed realism. We have vulnerabilities, and we are working to reduce them so they cannot be exploited by our adversaries.

In summary, there is no surprise - only acceleration, which we are addressing collectively with lucidity and determination.

The war in Ukraine has brought high-intensity conflict and attrition back into focus. How are these lessons being translated in practical terms into operational preparation and equipment for the French Army?

High-intensity warfare and its corollaries, such as attrition, have never entirely disappeared from military thinking. However, recent engagements had shifted our focus more towards counter-terrorism and expeditionary capabilities. These remain valuable skills that we must retain, as the terrorist threat persists. But we must also recover capabilities that were neglected after the Cold War.

In practical terms, the first challenge is scale. High-intensity scenarios require training at much higher levels. This is why the French Army now trains at corps level. Operating at this scale also requires the necessary enablers to integrate divisions and brigades - engineering, logistics, communications.

Attrition is, of course, a key issue. The Military Health Service has fully integrated high-intensity challenges, adapting its medical chain by reinforcing frontline care and expanding rear capabilities to handle larger numbers of casualties. Beyond scale, there is also the multiplication of actors. Operating in joint, allied and inter-ministerial frameworks requires a high degree of interoperability and coordination.

The war in Ukraine has also highlighted new technologies and renewed the importance of others. This translates into increased drone integration, enhanced air defence - including against drones - renewed investment in electronic warfare and continued work on robotics and artificial intelligence. We must take a step back when analysing Ukraine and its lessons. I believe AI must be fully integrated into our forces, including through collaborative robots and drones. Our exercises reflect these changes to remain as realistic as possible - ORION being a prime example.

Finally, we must be able to endure. High-intensity conflict is also defined by its duration, which is why we are investing heavily in munitions.

In short, we are preserving our strengths while adapting to evolving realities, with one objective: always being able to fulfil our mission of defending France, its people, and its interests - while continuing to innovate.

When you took office, you stated that "we must be ready to win a war if France needs to use force." How is France organising itself to face a high-intensity shock, both in urgency and over time?

You are raising the issue of timeframes. Armed forces are accustomed to operating across multiple timelines: the distant past for lessons learned, the recent past and present for immediate feedback, the present for operations, the future for planning and the longer-term future for anticipation.

You are right to highlight both urgency and duration. We must not sacrifice the long term by focusing solely on urgency - what we might call the tunnel effect. But the reverse is also true: we must not sacrifice the present in preparing for the future. As General MacArthur said, "lost battles can be summed up in two words: too late." It is a matter of balance.

We conduct parallel planning to identify both short-term and long-term needs. These are then combined and, depending on their criticality, we propose trade-offs to maintain that balance.

The ORION 26 exercise was designed to prepare for high-intensity conflict. What lessons have you drawn from it?

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ORION was based on a major engagement scenario involving high-intensity conflict. It lasted nearly four months, involved over 12,000 personnel and 23 allied nations and addressed issues of duration, scale and multinational integration.

We pushed multi-domain integration further and focused particularly on the operational level, which is critical in such engagements. One phase was dedicated to inter-ministerial coordination to improve civil-military dialogue and activities were designed to engage youth.

The lessons are already numerous and still being analysed. Among them: the importance of coordination to maximise effects and the importance of mass without sacrificing agility. I strongly believe in subsidiarity. Dispersion, lightness and redundancy - especially for command posts - are also central.

The most important lesson is the need for a genuine shift in mindset, which is already under way. We must retain frameworks without becoming constrained by them. In other words, we need automatisms, but we must not become automatic - so that we can always retain the ability to surprise the adversary and seize the initiative.

How can the French Armed Forces strengthen the moral resilience of the nation and better engage younger generations?

This goes beyond the military alone, but the Armed Forces contribute to national resilience by raising awareness of defence issues whenever possible. Many initiatives exist at the local level - defence classes, military preparation schemes, youth air programmes, open days. Encounters matter.

We also rely on commemorations and ceremonies as opportunities for dialogue. Reservists play a central role, acting as a bridge between civilian society and the military.

A key development will be the new National Service, launching this summer. Designed as a gap year, it will allow volunteer and selected young people to spend ten months in uniform, trained and employed alongside regular and reserve personnel for useful defence missions. They will then act as ambassadors, better prepared to face challenges, with enhanced skills, confidence, and a sense of cohesion. Young people are willing to engage - they just do not always know how. This programme will provide that pathway.

Eurosatory highlights multi-domain superiority, AI, cyber and the war economy. How do these priorities translate into France's capability choices over the next decade?

These priorities are reflected in the Military Programming Law and its update, which proposes strengthening our forces, particularly in operational activity and munitions. It also accelerates efforts in key areas such as artificial intelligence and cyber, which are essential for intelligence and command. Other domains, such as space and quantum technologies, are also receiving investment.

The concept of a war economy also changes how we express our requirements. It means having equipment available in quantity, quickly and at low cost. This does not apply to all systems, especially high-end technologies, but there is a clear need for simpler, rapidly produced and affordable equipment.

This represents a significant shift from previous years, but it is essential to ensure endurance, sustainability and depth in our model.

What does Eurosatory represent for you?

Eurosatory is a unique ecosystem where innovative start-ups, SMEs, major groups and operational users come together. It is both a hive and a nursery - a place of energy and growth where cutting-edge innovation meets established industry.

I attend with both the curious and critical eye of a user and the demanding perspective of a leader. It is an important forum where the armed forces of tomorrow are shaped: I go there both to help guide the discussions and draw inspiration from them. ●

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ELYNXO'S VIRTUOSE, A COMPACT GAME-CHANGER IN SOLDIER-BORNE OPTRONICS

BY JULES ROUKOZ

On an increasingly digital battlefield where every gram and every second count, French optronics specialist Elynxo is betting big on a small form factor. Its new VIRTUOSE multifunction monocular brings together capabilities that once required several separate devices, in a package light enough to sit unobtrusively on a soldier's chest rig. Designed and manufactured in France with a high proportion of local content, it clearly targets customers looking for both performance and sovereignty in their optronic choices.

At first glance, VIRTUOSE look like a robust but conventional monocular. Look closer, and it reveals a blend of direct optics, thermal imaging, laser ranging and target geolocation, all wrapped in a compact, sub-kilogram body optimised for dismounted troops. A high-quality direct optical path provides crisp, latency-free daytime observation, while a latest-generation uncooled thermal sensor offers detection and recognition through darkness, smoke or light foliage. For fire support teams and special forces patrols, that combination alone can simplify kit and speed up decision cycles.

The integrated eye-safe laser rangefinder, paired with onboard GNSS, turns VIRTUOSE into a true targeting tool, enabling rapid generation and sharing of precise coordinates over tactical networks. Wireless connectivity allows live video, stills and positional data to be pushed to tablets, smartphones or battle management systems, supporting collaborative engagement and remote decision-making.

For Elynxo, VIRTUOSE is more than a new product line; it is a statement of intent in the portable optronics segment. By fusing advanced sensors, ruggedised mechanics and intuitive ergonomics into a single, soldier-proof device, the company aims squarely at modernisation programmes seeking to lighten the load while increasing the reach and awareness of the dismounted warfighter.

ECHOGUARD 4D, COMPACT SHORT -RANGE RADAR SHIELD AGAINST THE DRONE THREAT

BY JOSEPH ROUKOZ

HALL 5A STAND B 275

Presented at Eurosatory 2026 on Echodyne's stand, the EchoGuard® 4D surveillance radar brings high-end electronically scanned performance to a remarkably compact, low-SWaP package designed for superior drone detection and enhanced perimeter security. Built around the company's proprietary Metamaterials ESA (MESA®) technology, the solid-state system delivers true four-dimensional situational awareness - range, azimuth, elevation and Doppler - in all weather and lighting conditions. Operating in the K-band (24.45–24.65 GHz for the US variant and 24.05–24.25 GHz for international models), EchoGuard scans a 120° azimuth by 80° elevation field of view, providing persistent coverage of critical approaches to airfields, bases, industrial plants and other sensitive sites. Track accuracy is better than 1° in azimuth and 1.5° in elevation, with update rates of 10 Hz and up to 20 simultaneous tracks, giving security operators high-fidelity data for rapid threat assessment and engagement.

Despite its small size - just 16.3 cm x 20.3 cm x 5.7 cm and weighing only 1.25 kg - the radar offers an instrumented range of 6 km. It can detect small unmanned aerial vehicles at over 1 km for a Phantom 4-class drone and beyond 1.4 km for a Matrice 600-type platform, while vehicles are detected at more than 3.5 km and a walking human at over 2.2 km, depending on conditions. Power consumption remains modest at 50 W in operation and under 10 W (US) or 7 W (INTL) in hot standby, with a wide operating temperature range from -40 °C to +75 °C and IP67 weather protection.

Integration is facilitated through Gigabit Ethernet control, standardised data products (range/velocity maps, detections, measurements and tracks) and VESA 75/100 mm mounting patterns for fixed, vehicle or mast installations. With CE, RoHS 3 and RED-compliant international versions and a comprehensive software and support package, EchoGuard positions itself as a market-leading 4D radar solution for counter-UAS and perimeter-defence applications. ●

SESAM BY JUNGHANS IS THE NEXT-GENERATION ELECTRONIC SAFE & ARM DEVICE POWERING SMARTER, SAFER MUNITIONS

JULES ROUKOZ

HALL 6 STAND F280

The SESAM from Junghans Defence is a Standardized Electronic Safe and Arm Module designed to meet the stringent safety and reliability requirements of modern guided munitions, loitering systems and tactical missiles, and is presented at the EUROSATORY defence exhibition in Paris. The compact, robust and fully electronic module reflects Junghans' strategy of offering a modular, ITAR-free fuze and a fully flexible Safe and Arm Device compatible with a wide range of modern munitions, while simplifying integration into new European and NATO programmes.

Physically, the SESAM takes the form of a cylindrical module with a diameter of around 65 mm and a maximum height of 20 mm, for a mass in the 100 ± 10 g range, which eases its integration into a wide variety of effectors and payload sections. The housing meets IP67 protection standards, providing high resistance to harsh operational environments where humidity, dust, spray and rapid climatic changes are present, including maritime and all-weather mission profiles. The device is qualified for an operational temperature range from –46 °C to +71 °C, with short-term storage tolerance from –54°C up to +84°C.

The SESAM architecture is built around a Low Energy Electric Exploding Foil Initiator (LEEFI), which offers an effective compromise between insensitivity, initiation reliability and output energy. The initiation chain is aligned with STANAG 4560 for detonators and STANAG 4170 for secondary explosives, ensuring full compatibility with NATO safety standards. Explosive compositions are selected to comply with STANAG 4147 for chemical compatibility, while overall safety and suitability are assessed in accordance with STANAG 4157, placing SESAM within a rigorous qualification framework.

The arming sequence is entirely software-controlled, with development carried out in line with a methodology validated by the Direction Générale de l'Armement (DGA), enabling complex safety logics and full traceability of all arming conditions. Arming can be conditioned by two external signals. Firing can then be triggered either by a single external signal or by an internally measured event via the embedded accelerometer, giving system designers considerable flexibility between strictly command-driven and condition-based initiation modes.

From a power perspective, SESAM accepts a supply voltage between 20 V and 52 V, with a cycle time of less than one second from power-on to armed status, a key advantage for reactive weapon systems and time-critical engagements. The module has been engineered to support repeated arm/safe cycles, and its rapid re-saving capability allows a safe return to a non-armed configuration in case of mission abort or interruption of the firing sequence. Several pieces of information, such as arming status indication, are available through RS485 serial communication with the carrier. A standard USB-C interface supports safety and triggering signals, RS485 serial communication and power supply.

Targeting loitering munitions, one-way effectors and missile applications, SESAM offers a lightweight, miniaturised yet highly safe solution across the entire life cycle, from depot to target impact. Its STANAG-compliant design, ITAR-free status and European production make it a natural candidate for next-generation European and allied programmes seeking enhanced safety, straightforward integration and optimised operational effectiveness.

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PIERRE SCHILL: “THE FRENCH ARMY’S MISSION IS TO STAND READY, FROM TODAY IF NECESSARY”

BY JULIEN CHABROUT

In a strategic landscape shaped by accelerating threats, technological disruption and the hard lessons of war in Ukraine, the French Army’s Chief of Staff, General Pierre Schill, sets out a clear message: readiness cannot wait. In this interview for Eurosatory Show Daily, he explains how the Army is adapting to high-intensity conflict, investing in new capabilities and embracing innovation to ensure it remains prepared for whatever comes next.

You recently stated that “to be free, one must be feared; to be feared, one must be strong”. The conflict in Ukraine has brought high-intensity warfare and attrition back to the forefront. How are these lessons being translated in practical terms into the operational preparation and equipment of the French land forces?

The war in Ukraine, as well as the proliferation of tensions and confrontations in other regions of the world, reminds us of the urgency and the radical nature of the strategic moment we are living through. Conflicts are faster, more technological, but also harsher in their human and material reality. They combine highly modern forms of warfare - drones, electronic warfare, artificial intelligence - with much more classical, even archaic, forms: trench warfare, seizure of ground, urban combat and prolonged attrition.

These lessons confirm the relevance of the transformation undertaken by the French Army. We are first and foremost strengthening the capabilities that deliver operational superiority: lethality, particularly deep strike; command and connectivity systems; electronic warfare; air defence; drones; and logistical support.

Operational preparation is also evolving. Units now train under the constant threat of

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drones, jamming and information saturation. We are strengthening training in degraded environments, the dispersion of command posts, logistical resilience and the capacity to endure.

You have to regenerate stocks, modernise capabilities and maintain a high level of training at the same time. What, for you, are the three priority levers to ensure that the French Army is ready for a major engagement today?

The mission of the French Army is to stand ready. From today if necessary. While carrying out its day-to-day missions, the Army is preparing for the future. It is doing so first by increasing its lethality, particularly in depth, through a combination of long-range fires, loitering munitions, drones and effective intelligence and targeting systems.

The second lever is training. We are therefore adapting our operational preparation methods to the realities of high-intensity combat, by reinforcing realism, dispersion, robustness and the coherence of large formations.

The third lever is agility. Speed has become a major factor in military power. The challenge is no longer simply to possess effective equipment, but to understand, experiment, adapt and produce faster than the adversary. To that end, the Army is developing continuous innovation, based both on the pioneering spirit of units and on the momentum generated by the Future Combat Command. Brigade exploratory hubs, tactical experimentation and delegated funding envelopes make it possible to accelerate the integration of innovations into the forces.

Do you sense a desire for engagement among young people? How can the ties between the Army and youth be strengthened on a lasting basis?

The desire among young people to engage is a concrete reality, more than just a feeling. Every year, more than 15,000 young French women and men join the ranks of the French Army. The youth of our country has a deep desire to serve, to act concretely and to contribute to a collective endeavour greater than themselves. The strategic context probably contributes to this awakening.

Maintaining the bond between the armed forces and French youth over time is an ongoing challenge. The French Army contributes through partnerships with the Ministry of Education, military preparatory schemes, the reserve, the national service, and the many activities carried out across the regions. But the spirit of defence goes beyond the military sphere. It rests on a shared understanding of threats, the role of the armed forces and the meaning of service to the Nation. This bond between youth and the armed forces is a shared responsibility.

Does the current context make voluntary national service more useful than ever?

The strategic context does indeed call for a more hybrid model, bringing together active-duty soldiers, reservists and young people undertaking voluntary national service. The aim is not to return to mass conscription. Rather, it is about strengthening national resilience, the spirit of defence and the country's ability to mobilise in an environment marked by rising tensions, hybrid threats and possible knock-on effects on the national territory.

For the French Army, this national service complements the increase in the reserve force. In time, the regular force, the reserve and national service will form a more coherent and more robust model for the defence of the Nation.

How is the French Army addressing issues related to artificial intelligence and ground robotics?

We are in the midst of a major transformation of land warfare. After the decade of the aerial drone, the next decade will probably be that of ground

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robotics. Artificial intelligence and robotisation already have concrete applications in decision support, information processing, intelligence, effect coordination, autonomous mobility, logistics and collaborative combat.

The French Army is pursuing this transformation pragmatically and with a results-driven culture. The aim is to increase the operational effectiveness of the forces while protecting soldiers. The challenge is as doctrinal as it is technological: it is about understanding how these systems will transform the way we fight, and integrating these developments into every aspect of preparation and operational conduct.

The Pendragon programme fits within this logic. It brings together drones, ground robots, autonomous systems and artificial intelligence within robotic collaborative combat units. A first robotic unit will be created in 2027. It will be used to assess operational uses, employment conditions and the limits of these new capabilities.

What does Eurosatory mean to you?

Eurosatory is an important event for European and allied armed forces. It is a privileged venue for exchanges between militaries, industry, research centres and innovation actors, who compare operational feedback, military requirements and industrial capabilities.

For the companies present, it also illustrates the vitality of the French and European defence industrial and technological base. For the French Army, Eurosatory offers the opportunity to present its transformation, its experiments and its vision of the future aero-land battle. ●

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MUSTHANE HIGHLIGHTS WHEEL SURVIVABILITY SOLUTIONS AT EUROSATORY

BY JOSEPH ROUKOZ

At Eurosatory 2026, French company Musthane is showcasing its latest mobility and protection innovations, with a particular focus on its patented Tyre Surface Protection (TSP) system designed to enhance vehicle survivability in demanding operational environments.

The Mustmove® TSP solution addresses a critical yet often overlooked vulnerability: tyre sidewalls. Developed by Musthane's engineering team as a custom, made-to-measure system, TSP is compatible with both standard vehicle configurations and platforms equipped with central tyre inflation systems (CTIS). Its highly flexible material absorbs deformation while maintaining structural integrity, significantly reducing the risk of punctures and tears.

According to the company, the system can extend tyre lifespan dramatically-by up to 100 times in harsh, rocky terrains-while also lowering maintenance costs. Installation is designed with operational efficiency in mind, requiring less than three minutes per wheel and no need to dismount the tyre.

Beyond physical protection, TSP also contributes to vehicle signature management. The system reduces the thermal signature of tyre sidewalls, remaining at ambient temperature during operations, and offers both visible and infrared camouflage. An optional removable hub camouflage further enhances concealment.

Musthane emphasises the system's durability in extreme environments, as well as its self-cleaning properties, which prevent debris accumulation between the tyre and the protective device during movement.

The company is also presenting complementary solutions within its Mustmove® range, including temporary access mats, recovery traction mats, and rapid deployment landing areas, all aimed at improving mobility in complex terrains. Additionally, its Muststore® system provides ballistic protection for fuel tanks, incorporating self-sealing and anti-explosion features.

With its focus on mobility, protection and operational efficiency, Musthane continues to position itself as a key player in deployable infrastructure and survivability solutions for modern armed forces.

PRECISION WITHOUT COMPROMISE

JEAN-PIERRE HUSSON

HALL 5A STAND B 245

Barrett Firearms Manufacturing is redefining compact precision in the most discreet operational environments with the new MRAD Covert, a rifle designed to combine tactical mobility with exacting performance. Built around a compact folding-stock configuration, the rifle can be rapidly disassembled and stowed in a bag or backpack, offering exceptional concealability and ease of transport.

Based on Barrett's proven magazine-fed, bolt-action MRAD platform, the MRAD Covert delivers the durability and performance expected of the full-size rifle, but in a far more compact and mobile package. It is available in .308 Winchester (7.62x51mm) or 6.5 Creedmoor, and comes with a 17-inch/432mm barrel. Barrett says the rifle is capable of five-shot groups of under 0.85 MOA.

Such performance from a compact, transportable rifle is no coincidence. It reflects Barrett's determination not to compromise on barrel quality, action integrity or mechanical precision in the pursuit of convenience. The rifle remains fully compatible with all MRAD barrel conversion kits, preserving its adaptability across a wide range of mission profiles. In other words, the Covert is not tied to a single role; it is built to adapt.

Designed for military and law enforcement users, the MRAD Covert retains the full MRAD feature set in a form factor optimised for discreet carry. Each rifle is supplied with an Eberlestock Adapt backpack, although Barrett can also tailor transport solutions to end-user requirements, underlining the fact that the MRAD Covert has been designed around movement rather than static firing positions.

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BVS10 EVO, MORE POWERFUL, GOING HIGHER

BY VALERIO DEL GRANDE

The presence of BAE Systems Hägglunds BvS10 is a constant at the Parc des Expositions at Villepinte, as the all-terrain vehicle (ATV) has been exhibited in nearly all the recent editions of Eurosatory.

This year the vehicle harbours the EVO acronym on the front waggon, as it is the "evolution" version of the widely used armoured articulated ATV.

The main reason for developing the BvS10 EVO was the interest by India; the vehicle is aimed firstly at equipping Indian Army units operating at high altitude in the Jammu and Kashmir region. Considering the reduction of output power caused by altitude, to allow the 16 tonnes vehicle to operate at the 5,500 metres of the Indian requirement, an improved version with a more powerful engine was needed. The Cummins 285 hp diesel engine was replaced by a more powerful 360 hp engine of the same provider, the turbine being also new. No need for replacing the Allison transmission, as this was able to cope with the extra power. The BvS10 EVO performances satisfied the potential customer who, in November 2025, signed a first contract with prime contractor Larsen & Toubro for 18 vehicles, known as "Sindhu" in India, for a total of 18 BvS-10 "Sindhu" ATVs, further contracts being expected. The Indian producer also becomes a potential second source, should new contracts appear in that continent, considering that the order book is quite full and will keep the company Örnsköldsvik main facility busy for some years, the increasing interest for the Arctic possibly adding further orders to those already bagged. The main contract is the one for Sweden, the UK and Germany, the three nations having ordered together 663 BvS10 in six variants, with 469 more vehicles as option. The BvS10 chassis is common between the BvS10 and the Beowulf, the unarmoured version of which 128 vehicles are on order for the United States, more orders being expected. Looking at the future, increasing on board-power, adding autonomy, and adopting a hybrid propulsion are all things under consideration in Örnsköldsvik.

DEMONSTRATION AREA

INKAS M1 SHOWS CAPABILITIES IN EUROSATORY DYNAMIC DEMONSTRATION

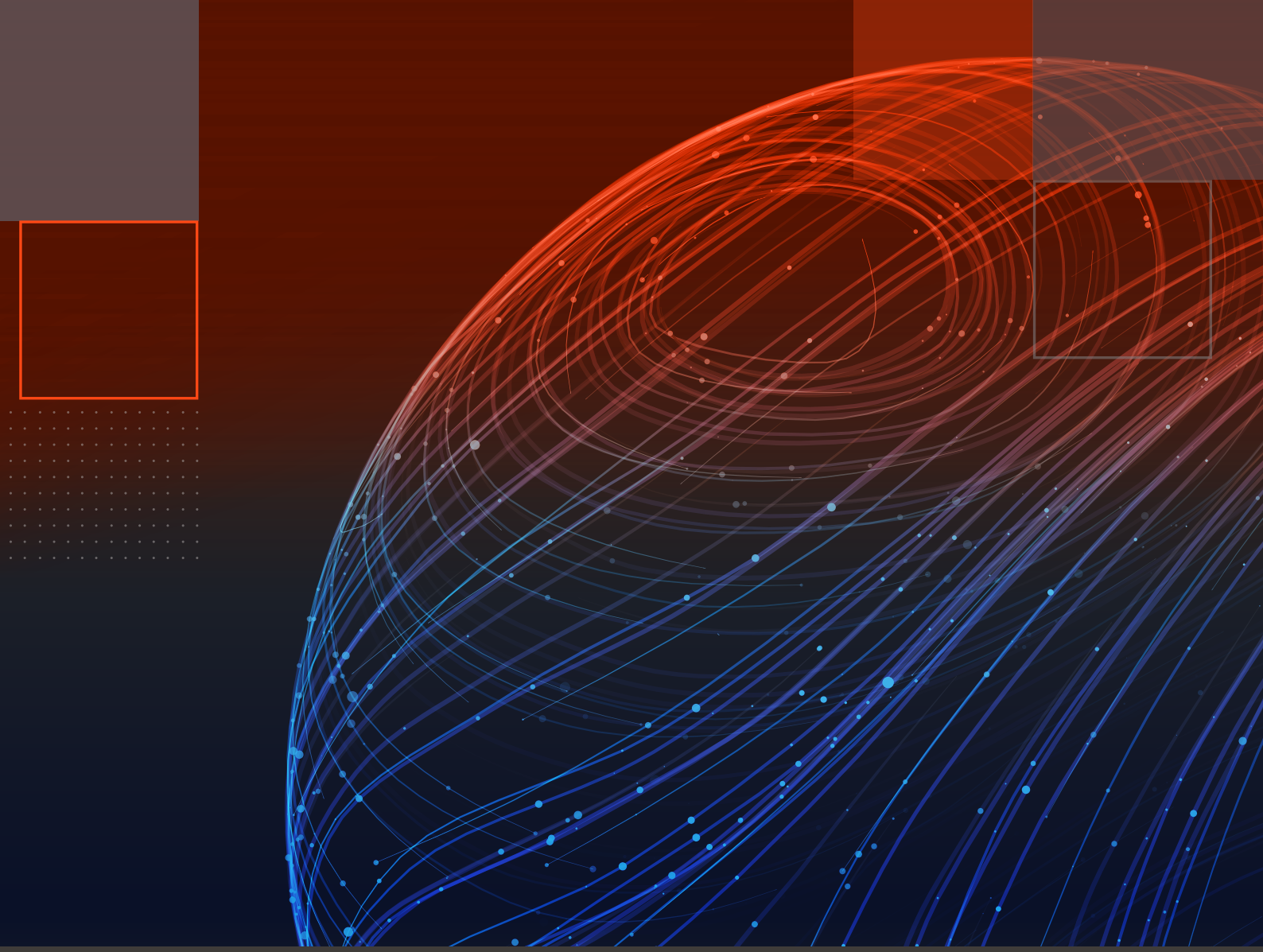
BY VALERIO DEL GRANDE

Just a year ago, Canadian company Inkas selected KNDS Mobility as its partner for developing a military platform. Initially designing armoured vehicles based on a Ford 550 chassis, the companies then proceeded to a decisive step towards the defence market for Inkas - the M1 armoured vehicle, cased on a Celeris 4x4 chassis. The collaboration between the two companies highlights the strengthening ties between the Canadian and French defence industries.

An MRAP-type vehicle carrying a crew of two (plus eight dismounts in the APC configuration), the M1 is 5.987 m long, 2.528 m wide and 2.834 m high. It is powered by a 375 hp Cummins ISL8.9 ISLE375 diesel engine coupled to an Allison 3200SP automatic transmission which, considering the 13.5 tonnes gross vehicle mass, provides a 28 hp/t power to mass ratio. Maximum speed is 110 km/h while range at cruise speed is 600 km. The vehicle is fitted with KNDS Mobility's best-in-class T750 axles with independent military grade suspension, hydro-shock absorbers, and 14.00R20 tyres with runflat inserts and a Syegon central tyre inflation system. Ballistic protection is Level 3 with an option for Level 4 all-round according to STANAG 4569; V-shaped floor, blast energy-absorbing seats and a minimum 475 mm ground clearance contribute to STANAG Level 4a/b mine protection.

The Inkas M1 has a 4,500 kg payload, the roof allowing for mounting weapon stations of up to 30x113 mm calibre, with a 28V 600A alternator permitting installation of power-hungry electronic payloads. As standard the vehicle carries four batteries, with an option for eight. Air transportable, a C-130H can carry one M1 and an A400M two.

The M1 prototype being exhibited at Eurosatory is fitted with an FN Defender Medium RCWS, a Mehler C-UAS solution, a Metravib Pilar acoustic sensor, an Exail INS, and a Kappa camera system.



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KNDS CBRN UNVEILS TGM48: A NEW BENCHMARK IN CBRN RESPIRATORY PROTECTION AT EUROSATORY 2026

BY JOSEPH ROUKOZ

HALL 5A STAND H261

At Eurosatory 2026, KNDS CBRN is set to introduce the TGM48, its latest generation CBRN gas mask designed to meet the evolving requirements of modern armed forces and specialised operational units. Drawing on more than 70 years of expertise in chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear protection, the system represents a significant step forward in combining protection, ergonomics and mission adaptability.

The TGM48 has been engineered to deliver optimal performance in the most hostile operational environments. One of its defining features is its exceptionally wide field of view, enabled by a high optical quality visor that ensures enhanced situational awareness even under degraded conditions. The visor incorporates over moulding technology, guaranteeing long-term sealing integrity against both CBRN agents and industrial toxic hazards.

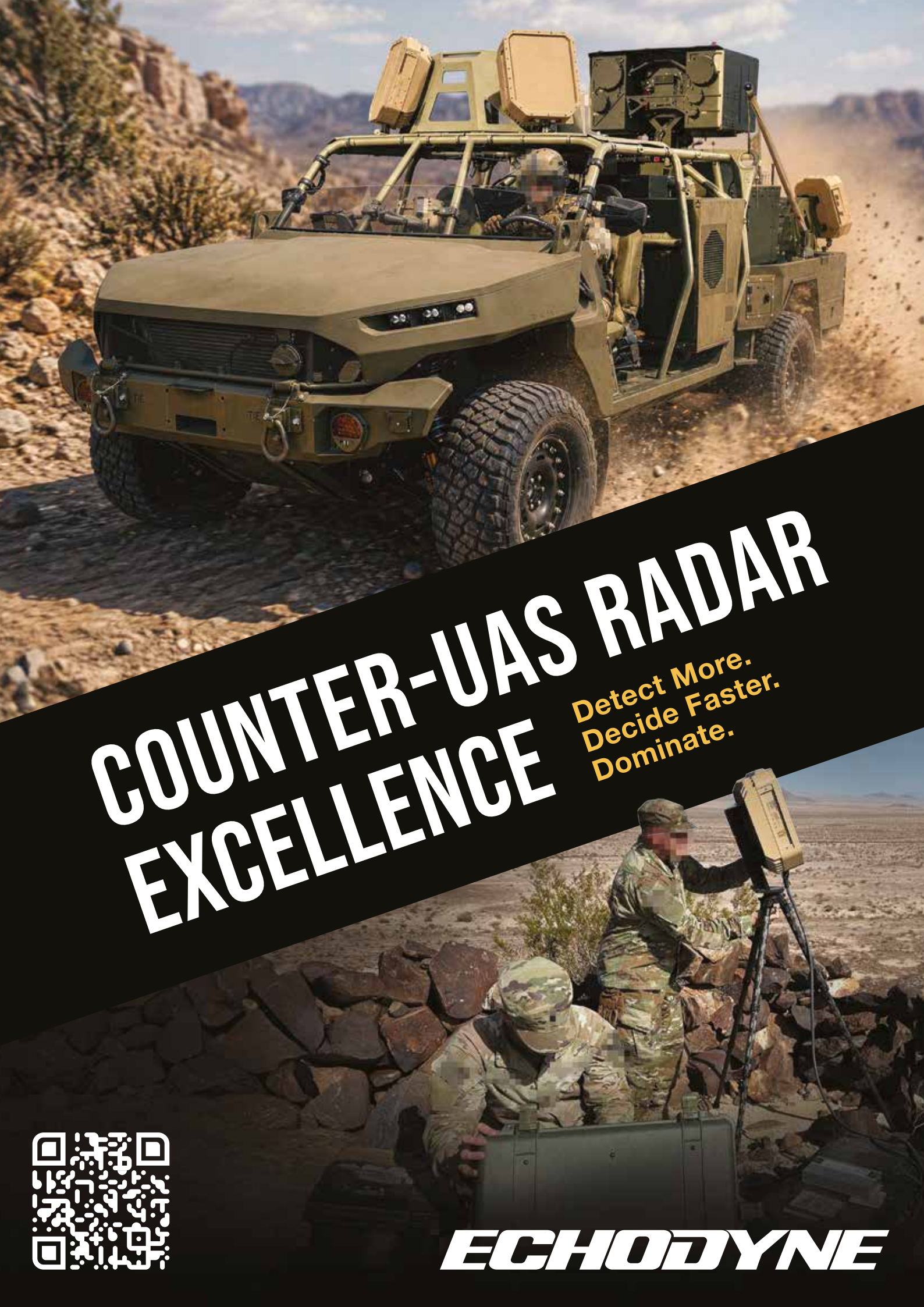
Protection remains at the core of the system's design. The mask provides resistance exceeding 48 hours against toxic agents, achieved through the use of advanced materials that act as a highly effective barrier against persistent threats. This level of endurance is particularly critical for extended missions where resupply or replacement may not be immediately possible.

Beyond protection, KNDS CBRN has placed strong emphasis on ergonomics and user comfort. The TGM48 features a quick-adjust head-net system, allowing operators to achieve a precise fit rapidly while eliminating pressure points during prolonged wear. Its robust construction ensures durability across a wide range of operational and environmental conditions, without compromising performance.

The mask also integrates a range of mission-critical capabilities. An integrated drinking system enables sustained operations without the need to break the protective seal, while full compatibility with tactical communication systems supports seamless coordination and real-time information exchange. Additional modular options include a voice amplifier, optical inserts, a variety of over-visors, and dedicated logistic carrying solutions, allowing units to tailor the configuration to specific mission profiles.

Developed in close collaboration with end-users, the TGM48 reflects operational feedback from the field, resulting in a solution that balances high-level protection with practical usability. As threats continue to evolve, KNDS CBRN positions the TGM48 as a new standard in personal CBRN protective equipment—particularly suited for elite units and forces operating in high-risk environments.

With its official presentation at Eurosatory 2026, the TGM48 is expected to attract significant attention from military and security stakeholders seeking next-generation respiratory protection solutions.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THE EVOLVED DUTY RED DOT

BY JEAN-PIERRE HUSSON

HALL 6 STAND F204

With the new Aimpoint Duty RDS MR (Multi Reticle) it is immediately clear that the new red dot sight for rifles has a switchable reticle. At the touch of a button, you can choose between a 2-MOA dot, a 65-MOA circle or a combination of inner dot and outer circle. There is also a «Motion Activation» sensor, which switches on immediately when it is moved and saves battery power by automatically switching to sleep mode if the red dot sight is not moved for two hours. As with the predecessor model, featuring a non-replaceable reticle with 2-MOA dot, the pressure-forged aluminium housing is made of EN AW-6082, a light metal alloy that is characterised by maximum strength and corrosion resistance.

The 167gram optic is compact (80×41×67mm) and can be fitted to the MIL-STD-1913 optics rail of the rifle. In contrast to other Aimpoint bestsellers, the Duty RDS MR has different controls for setting the brightness and elevation/windage corrections. On the left side of the housing is a digital keypad with two ± buttons with a dozen brightness settings (four-night vision-compatible and eight daylight settings), fully compatible, of course, with all generations of night vision devices and which can be combined with magnifiers to extend the operational range. The mechanisms for elevation/windage adjustment are flush with the housing on the Duty RD SMR. The new red dot sight is powered by a CR2032 battery and has a very long service life thanks to the Advanced Circuit Efficiency Technology (ACET) diode circuit, which drastically reduces power consumption – the manufacturer claims over three years of continuous operation with the daylight setting 7 activated. The Duty RDS MR can be combined with any other Aimpoint Comp M5 and Micro mount. ●

FIREPOWER MEETS PORTABILITY

BY JEAN-PIERRE HUSSON

HALL 5A STAND F390

From the scorching heat of the desert to the polar cold the KMG762, developed by the Turkish company Kalekalıp Makina, delivers relentless 7.62mm NATO stopping power. Built for operational consistency in the harshest environments, it offers superior performance in every phase of the mission, whether carried on the move, vehicle-mounted, or deployed in a static position. Designed to meet the stringent requirements of the NATO MIL-STD standard, the KMG762 platform is fully optimized for modern modular attachments. It features integrated STANAG 4694 (Picatinny) rails on the top receiver and handguard, alongside M-LOK slots for mounting day/night optics, thermal imagers and laser aiming devices.

Furthermore its 18-inch (457mm) barrel is fully compatible with Kalekalip's next-generation KS series monolithic silencers, which reduce acoustic signature by up to -22 dB and virtually eliminate muzzle flash without altering the projectile's point of impact. Recognizing the tactical needs of special operations forces and rapid-reaction units, Kalekalip Makina developed a dedicated ultra-lightweight variant: the KMG762CL (Compact Lightweight). This specialized iteration shrinks the weapon's footprint to rival standard assault rifles while retaining hard-hitting ballistic performance. The KMG762CL sheds nearly two kilograms from the baseline design, weighing in at a mere 6.7 kg (single operators to effectively fire from the shoulder during dynamic movements) and has a shortened 14.5inch (368 mm) barrel tailored for mechanized infantry operations. In addition, the side-folding telescopic stock reduces the total transport length to just 725 mm when folded. Crucially, the mechanism is engineered to allow full operational functionality and live firing even while the stock is completely folded. ●

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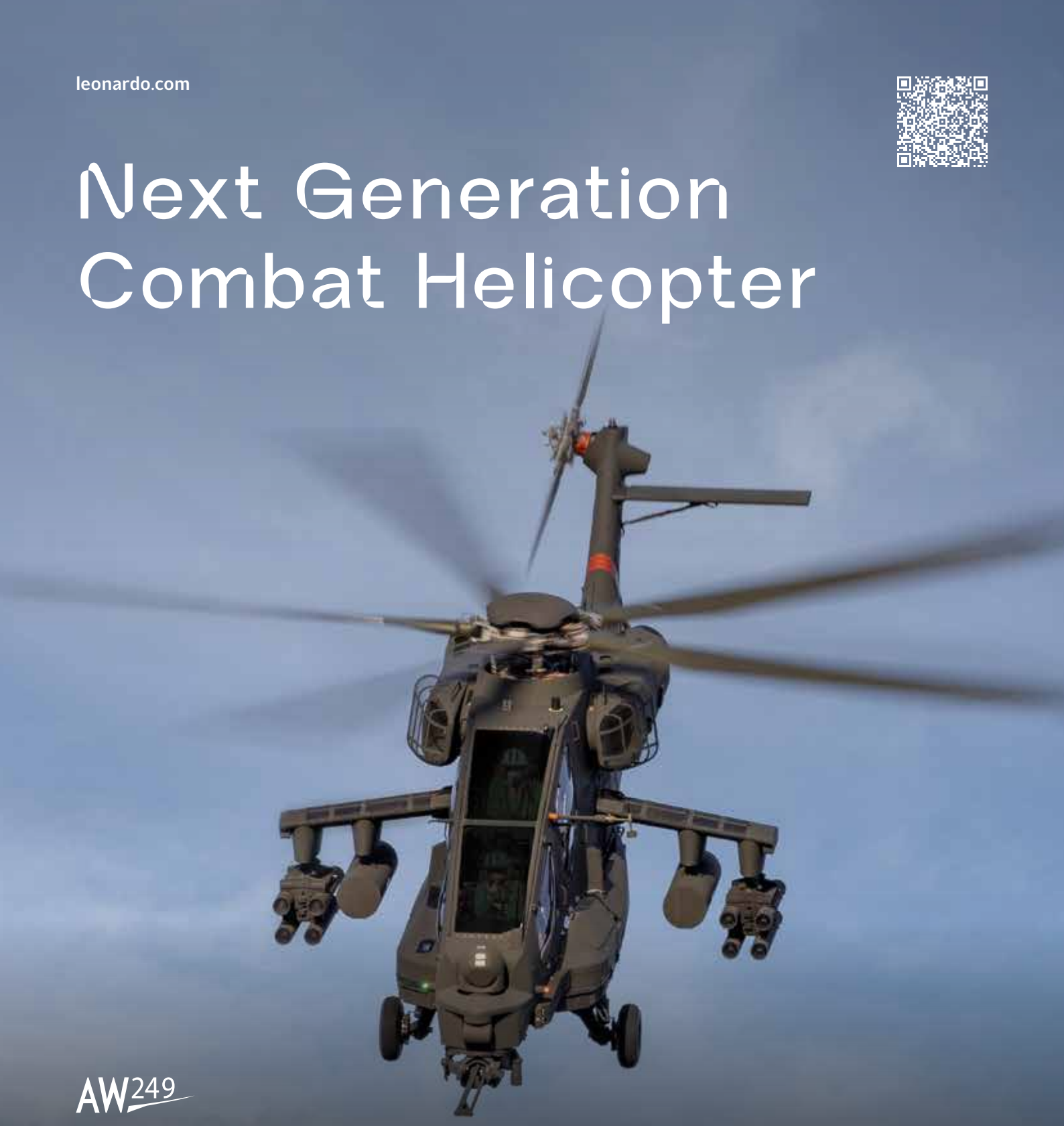

AW249

The AW249 has been designed to dominate future battlefield operations. This next generation combat helicopter is equipped with the latest technologies to energise Future Operation Concepts, across a range of operational scenarios, being able to promptly and effectively respond to traditional, asymmetric and hybrid threats. Fully equipped to provide advanced net-centric capabilities for Multi-Domain operations, the AW249 represents a generational leap in combat capabilities, ensuring operational superiority at all times.

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HALL
4
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H135

WHEN THE GEARS STOP TALKING AND START DELIVERING, SUMITOMO DRIVE TECHNOLOGIES' PRECISION PUSH FOR DEFENCE

BY JULES ROUKOZ

At EUROSATORY, Sumitomo Drive Technologies is demonstrating how precision motion control is becoming a frontline defence capability rather than a hidden function. In radar, sensor and tracking systems, where a fraction of a degree can determine whether a target is tracked or lost, positioning accuracy, torsional rigidity and shock resistance are increasingly mission-critical requirements.

Drawing on more than a century of expertise in drive technologies, Sumitomo Drive Technologies traces its Fine Cyclo line back to the patented Cyclo principle first developed in 1925. That heritage underpins a range of zero-backlash precision reducers designed for demanding defence environments where stable positioning must be maintained under real operating loads.

In radar and sensor systems fitted with rotating antennas, wind loads and stresses can create positional deviations and increase correction demands. Sumitomo Drive Technologies says the high torsional stiffness of Fine Cyclo reducers helps maintain smooth movement and precise alignment even under harsh operating conditions.

The technical strengths of the range lie in the combination of zero mechanical backlash and very high torsional rigidity. That pairing is especially valuable in closed-loop control systems, where precision must remain stable under operational load rather than only in ideal test conditions. The company also highlights high torque density, compact dimensions, high reduction ratios in a single stage and lifetime lubrication, reducing size, weight, maintenance and downtime.

Beyond radar and surveillance applications, Sumitomo Drive Technologies is positioning its Cyclo reducers for land and naval defence systems. The company says the same core principle, based on eccentrics, cam disks and pins rather than conventional toothed transmission, helps spread loads more evenly across the mechanism. The result is exceptional overload capacity, reportedly several times nominal torque and resistance to shock loads and stresses.

That approach aligns with the defence sector's broader "More Electric Defence" trend. By offering a compact and durable alternative to hydraulic systems, the Cyclo range is positioned as a practical enabler for platforms seeking greater electrical integration, lower maintenance requirements and improved operational availability.

As defence platforms become increasingly electrified and sensor-dependent, precision drivetrain performance is emerging as a key enabler of operational capability.

MARS GETS AIR DEFENCE...

BY SHAUN CONNORS

HALL 6 STAND J61

The Czech company SVOS Přelouč is displaying two versions of a short-range air-defence system based on the company's MARS (Multi-role ARmored System) 4×4 S-330 armoured vehicle.

Developed in co-operation with Sweden's Saab Dynamics (Hall 6, Stand G180) the system, which combines Saab's RBS 70 NG air defence missile with the SVOS platform, is being shown publicly as a complete system at Eurosatory this year. In 2025 the Czech government announced a €170 million deal that included the acquisition of 24 MARS-based mobile short-range air defence (MSHORAD) systems.

The systems Mobile Firing Unit (MFU) configuration is based on the hard-top MARS variant and features a Saab Trackfire remotely-operated weapon station with three ready-to-fire RBS 70 Bolide missiles. The RBS 70 has a range of around 9 km, can reach an altitude of 5,000 metres and can intercept a variety of aerial targets including drones at Mach 2. The Mobile Radar Unit (MRU) configuration is based on the crew-cab MARS variant that mounts Saab's Giraffe 1X radar behind the crew compartment. The MFU can operate independently of the MRU

The MARS vehicle was first shown publicly at Eurosatory 2022 and is a 12-tonne class 4×4 modular armoured vehicle with a minimum of STANAG 4569 Level 2 ballistic and mine protection. Motive power is provided by a Mercedes-Benz OM 926 LA six-cylinder diesel unit developing 240 kW at 2,200 rpm, coupled to a ZF 6HP602S fully automatic transmission with six forward and one reverse gears. Suspension is fully independent and height adjustable, giving a ground clearance ranging between 245 and 472 mm.

The base MARS vehicle has a maximum road speed of 110 km/h and an operational range of 800 km. Turning radius, thanks to a steering rear axle, is 12 m. A 0.5 m vertical obstacle can be surmounted and 0.85 m trench crossed. Fording depth is 1.2 m and the MARS can climb a 60% gradient as well as traverse a 40% side slope.

LOCKHEED MARTIN FOCUSED ON MISSILES AND FIRE CONTROL

BY TIM MAHON

Paying close attention to real world events as they impinge on the arcane world of defence exhibitions, Lockheed Martin is focusing the attention of visitors to its exhibit at Eurosatory this year on the breadth and depth of the corporation's missiles and fire control portfolio. In particular, the company will highlight what it is doing to support the accelerated supply of critical munitions for the United States and allied nations.

The conflict with Iran and the ongoing struggle in Ukraine has highlighted a number of concerns for defence authorities. Perhaps the most glaring is the manner in which consumption rates for essential consumables such as missiles and munitions has accelerated beyond anything previously experienced. Indeed, replenishing exhausted munitions stockpiles is among the most critical of capability gaps that multiple nations are struggling to resolve.

The corporation's $8 9 billion investment through 2030 is already delivering tangible results, including scaling munitions production and upgrading or building more than 20 facilities across the United States to meet heightened defence demand. Lockheed Martin was the first in the industry to announce a framework agreement for munitions acceleration under the Department of War's Acquisition Transformation Strategy, increasing production of the of the combat-proven PAC-3 MSE from 600 to 2,000 per annum over a seven-year period. This was followed by further agreements to quadruple production of both the Terminal High-Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) interceptor and the Precision Strike Missile (PrSM).

The company sees global demand for the offensive and defensive systems it produces as unprecedented, driven by proven battlefield performance and the urgent need for speed, precision and scalable solutions. It believes it has the right tools, proven processes and skilled employees in place and is well positioned to deliver a record number of munitions beginning this year. Adaptation of proven capabilities and technologies, such as the HIMARS system, to meet individual countries' needs more directly is proving to be a winning strategy. HIMARS Flex is a strong example of tailoring Lockheed Martin's unique technology for the European market. ●

VITEC TO SHOWCASE PRISM SFF TRANSCODER AT EUROSATORY 2026

BY JULES ROUKOZ

VITEC will unveil PRISM SFF, its most compact transcoder to date, at Eurosatory 2026, as part of a broader showcase of tactical video streaming technologies for defence and security users.

Designed for Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR) applications, PRISM SFF brings full transcoding capability into a small form factor built for constrained environments. According to VITEC, the unit is aimed at teams that need reliable performance in tight spaces, with limited power availability, and without disrupting existing video workflows.

Mark Rushton, Global Defence and Security Lead at VITEC, said PRISM SFF was created for mobile and field deployments where compact size and operational flexibility are essential. He added that, when used with ChannelLink, the system enables video to move reliably across contribution, distribution and gateway environments without requiring changes to the underlying infrastructure.

The platform offers the same core functionality as VITEC's full-size PRISM family, while being optimised for rack-space-limited installations. Up to three PRISM SFF units can be deployed in 1RU, making the solution suitable for mobile racks, edge sites and field systems. By eliminating external power supplies and reducing overall power consumption, the transcoder supports more efficient system design in operationally constrained settings.

VITEC will also highlight its TOUGH encoder family and MGW Diamond H at the show, alongside other compact and rugged video solutions designed for low-latency contribution and distribution in demanding military environments. The company's presence at Eurosatory underlines its focus on adaptable, mission-ready video technologies for defence users who need performance, resilience and ease of integration. ●

GLOCK GEN6: THE EVOLUTION OF EXCELLENCE

BY JEAN-PIERRE HUSSON

The new Glock Gen6 line introduces significant updates focused on ergonomics, optics-ready systems and shot control, while maintaining the brand's signature reliability. Compared with the previous Gen5, the sixth generation brings several technical innovations. Unlike the earlier MOS system, the new ORS (Optic Ready System) means every Gen6 pistol comes as standard with a slide milled for optics. This design allows lower and more secure mounting, improving co-witness with standard iron sights. The pistol accepts RMR, DeltaPoint Pro and C-More mounting footprints.

Other new features include a deeper cut-out under the trigger guard that allows a higher grip, lowering the axis of the barrel relative to the hand, while the grip itself has a refined rear curvature (palm swell) and an integrated thumb rest ("gas pedal") for superior recoil control. Gen6 pistols are fitted as standard with a flat-faced trigger to ensure more consistent finger placement and a smoother pull, and the slide stop lever now features a wider protective ridge to prevent accidental activation from a high-tang grip. The new RTF6 non-slip texture covers larger areas of the grip and the indexing points to further enhance control.

Gen6 models retain full compatibility with double-stack magazines from previous generations (Gen3–Gen5). The initial Gen6 line-up focuses on the most popular 9 mm Luger (9×19 mm Parabellum) models: the Glock 17 Gen6, the standard full-size pistol with a 4.49-inch (114 mm) barrel and 17-round capacity; the Glock 19 Gen6, the compact version with a 4.02-inch (102 mm) barrel and 15-round capacity; the Glock 45 Gen6, a crossover model combining the full-size G17 frame with the compact G19 slide; and the Glock 47 Gen6, a duty model with a shortened frame designed for maximum slide modularity. ●

ANELLO PHOTONICS: DEFEATING GPS JAMMING AND SPOOFING

BY GILES EBBUTT

HALL 4 STAND E307

ANELLO Photonics provides customers with precise, reliable GPS-denied navigation solutions that it claims cannot be jammed or spoofed in land, air and sea applications. At the core of ANELLO's technology is the Silicon Photonics Optical Gyroscope (SiPhOGTM), a solution based on integrated silicon photonic system-on-chip technology that delivers fibre optic performance in a very small form factor.

A patented silicon photonics integrated circuit (PIC) replaces the discrete optical components (couplers, phase modulators, TM filters and detector) found in the classical interferometric fibre optic gyroscope (FOG). The integrated SiPhOG provides considerable reduction in component costs and dimensional volume as compared to an equivalent high-performance traditional FOG implementation.

ANELLO's SIPHOG-based military solutions are particularly suited for use in uncrewed and autonomous vehicles in all domains. The X3 Inertial Measurement Unit (IMU), which ANELLO claims is the world's smallest and lightest three-axis high performance optical gyroscope IMU and is built specifically for UAVs and UUVs, leverages three SiPhOG units as low-noise and low-drift optical smart sensors, each containing its own independent six-axis redundant IMU sensor. Measuring 51x51x44.5mm, the X3 weighs 182g.

It is designed to 'plug-and-play' with both the PX4 and ArduPilot open-source autopilot systems, widely used for autonomous UAVs. ANELLO adds its own AI solution, which will automatically detect the loss of GPS guidance and create a navigation solution which enables the UAV to continue its mission.

The Maritime Inertial Navigation System (INS), measuring 112x86x48mm and weighing 454g, integrates SIPHOG technology with ANELLO's advanced sensor fusion engine to support navigation by autonomous surface vessels (ASVs) and autonomous underwater vessels (AUVs) in GPS-denied environments. ANELLO also has SIPHOG-based solutions designed for eVTOLs and robotics.

In January 2026 ANELLO was selected by the US Department of War for a $20 million award under the Accelerate the Procurement and Fielding of Innovative Technologies (APFIT) programme. The award will fast-track procurement, production and scaling of ANELLO's GPS-denied navigation technology. The APFIT selection builds on a strong track record of defence wins, including US Navy Phase I and US Army Phase II Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) awards.

Most recently, ANELLO announced that its technology has been selected for integration into BlackSea Technologies' Chaser autonomous surface vessel. In addition, ANELLO has also announced integration with Vatn Systems for its UUV products.

Dr Mario Paniccia, CEO of ANELLO Photonics, commented "With the support of our Navy and Marine Corps partners, we're accelerating the deployment of mission-ready technologies that redefine performance in GPS-denied environments. As ANELLO scales globally, we are laying the groundwork for a strong European presence with the goal to bring next-generation navigation capabilities to allied forces and commercial partners across the region."

TRIJICON ADDS FLAT DARK EARTH FINISH TO VCOG 1-8X28

BY JEAN-PIERRE HUSSON

HALL 5A STAND E 309

Trijicon, a global leader in advanced aiming solutions for military and law enforcement users, has expanded its VCOG range with a new Flat Dark Earth (FDE) version of the VCOG 1-8x28 riflescope. The model features a Cerakote FIR-265 finish, designed to improve durability and corrosion resistance while also reducing visual and near-infrared signature in line with military requirements.

The VCOG 1-8x28 is a low-power variable optic (LPVO) intended for a wide spectrum of engagements, from close-quarters use to longer-range shooting. Its first focal plane (FFP) reticle ensures that holdovers and subtensions remain consistent across the entire magnification range, supporting rapid target acquisition at 1x and precise shooting at higher magnification.

Built around a forged 7075-T6 aluminium housing, the optic is designed to withstand heavy recoil and demanding environmental conditions. It is also waterproof to a depth of 20 metres, while premium glass is used to deliver clear images with minimal distortion.

The new FDE variant is available in MOA, MRAD and SCO (Squad Common Optic) configurations, allowing it to be adapted to different calibres, barrel lengths and rifle setups. Illumination is powered by a single AA battery, providing up to 633 hours of runtime at medium settings, with 11 brightness levels including night-vision-compatible and daylight settings.

Practical features include an integrated magnification lever for quick adjustments and near-constant eye relief, which reduces the need to shift head position during use. The LED reticle and ruggedised construction are intended to ensure reliable performance in operational conditions.

CLP SYSTEM AB MANUAL GUN BARREL CLEANING SYSTEM

BY MARC CHASSILLAN

Maintaining gun barrels is essential for ensuring weapon reliability, accuracy, safety and service life. To meet these demanding requirements, CLP System AB has developed the MCS (Manual Cleaning System) – a robust and effective barrel cleaning solution designed for calibres ranging from 25 mm to 203 mm.

The MCS provides operators and maintenance personnel with a simple yet highly efficient method for removing firing residues, fouling, dirt, moisture and other contaminants that accumulate during shooting and storage. The system consists of durable cleaning brushes and modular extension rods that can be configured to match various barrel lengths and weapon platforms, allowing cleaning throughout the entire bore. It is often used as a complement to the company's celebrated VPBB (Vibrating Pneumatic Bore Brush) to ensure quick maintenance when compressors are not available. The VPBB is widely used throughout NATO and in overseas countries for tanks and artillery applications, both on land and at sea. The MCS is employed at NATO Echelons 1 and 2 while the VPBB is more commonly used from NATO Echelons 2-5.

MCS combines durability, ease of use and operational flexibility. Its modular design enables users to adapt the system to multiple calibres and weapon systems, reducing logistical complexity and lowering lifecycle costs. The rugged construction ensures reliable performance in demanding field conditions while remaining safe for barrel surfaces. The MCS can be part of the crew kit aboard tanks and howitzers.

Today, the MCS is trusted by some of the leading manufacturers within the defence industry. The system is supplied to various armies and OEMs around the globe: among others it is in use in the Caesar self-propelled howitzer programme, the Archer artillery system and in the Swedish army.

By enabling effective preventive maintenance and reducing residue build-up, the MCS contributes to increased operational readiness, improved weapon performance and extended barrel life. ●

BUILT FOR THE FIELD

BY JEAN-PIERRE HUSSON

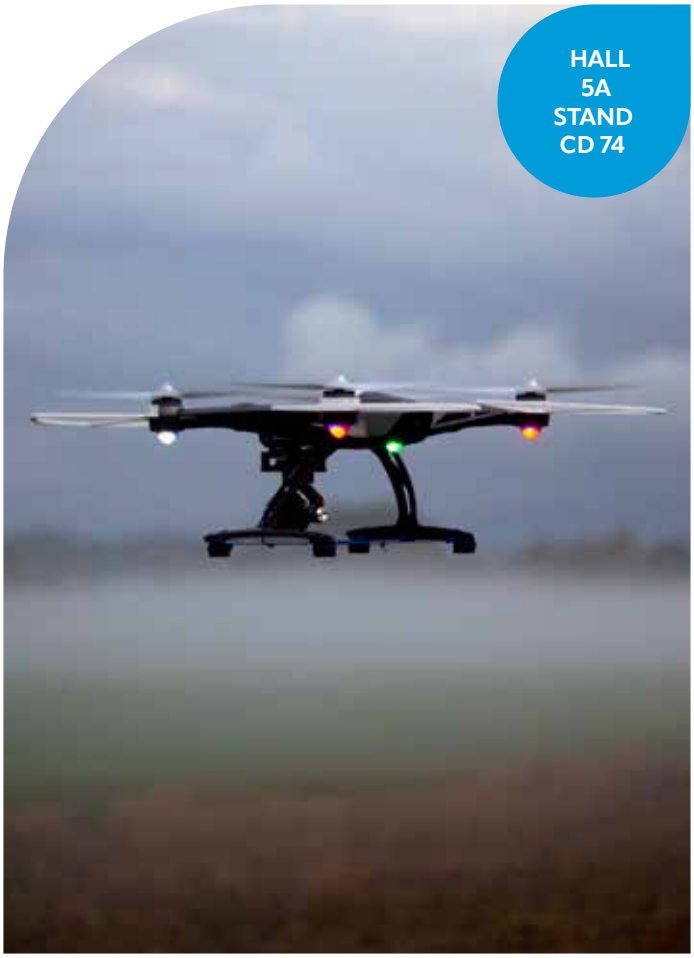
HALL 6 STAND B256

When it comes to military deployments, extended tactical missions, or demanding outdoor expeditions, carrying a massive amount of gear efficiently is non-negotiable. Italian tactical gear specialist Defcon 5 has directly addressed this need with its latest flagship transport solution: the 135-Litre Tactical Trolley Bag. Engineered for maximum durability and seamless logistics, this heavy-duty deployment bag is built to withstand the harshest operational environments. The foundation of its performance lies in its rugged construction. Fabricated from high-density 900 denier polyester, the bag offers exceptional resistance to tears, abrasions and rough handling. To ensure that gear remains dry and protected against unpredictable weather, the fabric is treated with a specialised PU3 polyurethane coating, providing superior water repellence. Weighing 4.70 kg when empty, the trolley features a rigid, reinforced base.

This structural reinforcement prevents the bag from sagging or warping, even when packed to its maximum weight capacity. Furthermore, Defcon 5 has designed a highly functional layout to ensure every piece of equipment has its place. The bag features an immense central storage compartment, three large zippered cargo pockets on one side for quick access to bulky items, and three additional flat zippered pockets on the opposite side. A quick-access top pocket is also integrated directly into the main closure flap. True to its military heritage, the trolley is equipped with standard MOLLE webbing on the top exterior, allowing operators to attach modular pouches or extra gear, alongside a transparent external ID window for rapid identification during transit. The 135L Tactical Trolley Bag is currently available in two primary finishes: the official Italian Army Vegetato camouflage and a Black version.

CAPGEMINI UNVEILS DRONE ACCELERATION CENTER TO STREAMLINE EUROPEAN UAV DEVELOPMENT

BY JULES ROUKOZ



At Eurosatory, Capgemini is showcasing a structured and forward-looking approach to accelerating drone innovation with the introduction of its Drone Acceleration Center. Positioned as a key enabler for defence and security stakeholders, the initiative aims to reduce development timelines while improving performance, scalability, and industrial readiness across drone programmes.

The Drone Acceleration Center is designed as a comprehensive end-to-end integration framework, addressing the full lifecycle of unmanned systems—from early-stage prototyping through to operational deployment and long-term sustainment. The concept responds directly to the growing complexity of integrating multi-domain systems in demanding operational environments.

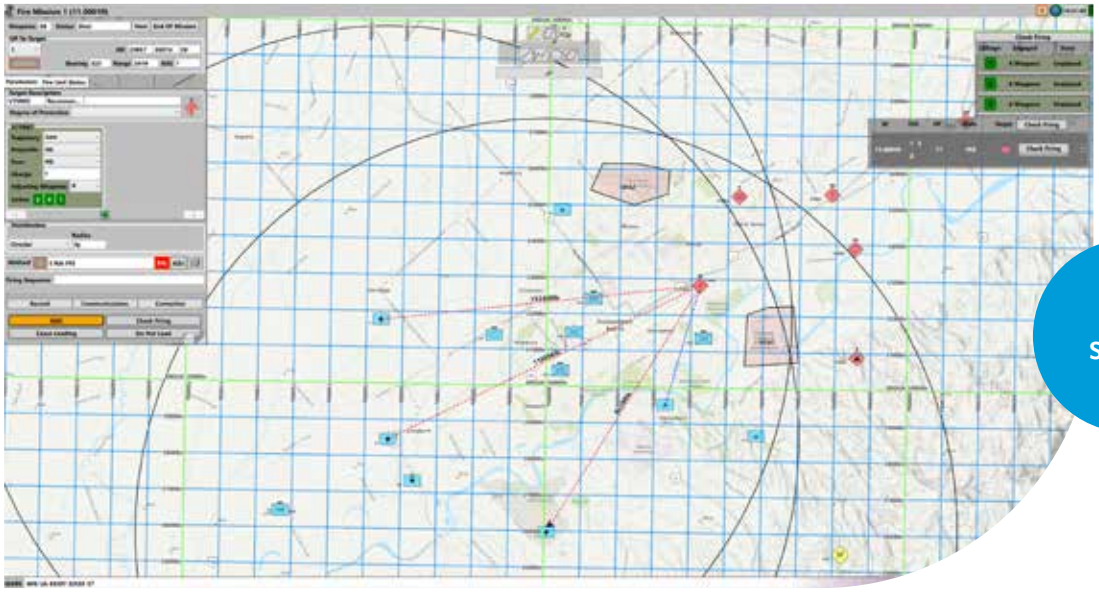
A central feature of the approach is its hardware-agnostic architecture, enabling rapid integration of diverse platforms including UAVs, UGVs, sensors, and effectors. By avoiding dependency on a single supplier, Capgemini promotes flexibility, technological sovereignty, and long-term sustainability-key considerations for European defence actors.

The framework is built around a modular architecture leveraging off-the-shelf components drawn from Capgemini's existing European portfolio. These proven building blocks span critical domains such as real-time communications, onboard data processing, sensor integration, cybersecurity, and software orchestration. This approach allows for faster deployment while maintaining robust performance and compliance with defence standards.

Importantly, the initiative capitalises on a wide network of expertise across Europe, notably in France, Spain, Portugal, and Germany. By pooling validated technologies and operational feedback, the Drone Acceleration Center prioritises integration and assembly over costly redevelopment, significantly accelerating industrialisation pathways.

From a technical standpoint, the system relies on advanced foundations including real-time middleware, embedded critical systems, and abstraction layers, ensuring interoperability and adaptability to evolving mission requirements. Modular artificial intelligence and edge computing capabilities can also be incorporated to enhance autonomy and real-time decision-making without constraining hardware choices.

Through this initiative, Capgemini positions itself as a key facilitator in Europe's drone ecosystem, offering defence stakeholders a pragmatic and scalable solution to shorten time-to-market while reinforcing operational performance and architectural resilience.



HALL 5A STAND G214

HIRTENBERGER: DIGITAL FIRE CONTROL

BY GILES EBBUTT

Hirtenberger Defence Technology Ltd (HDT) continues to develop its Arc-Fire artillery fire control system (FCS), which it offers both as an integrated package with mortars from parent company Hirtenberger Defence Systems (HDS) and as a stand-alone FCS capability for indirect fire support.

ARC-Fire is a fully integrated digital fire control C2 system that links commanders, fire support coordination centres, forward observers, fire direction centres and weapons. The system manages real-time data flowing between forward observers, commanders and fire direction centres (FDC) over combat net radios using serial, digital or IP communications.

ARC-Fire is now fully integrated with the Mortar Digital Aiming System (MDAS) produced by HDS, which detects the elevation and azimuth of the mortar barrel, allowing the weapon to be aimed and levelled faster and more accurately than before. It receives aiming data directly from the ARC-Fire system.

At Eurosatory HDT is demonstrating ARC-Fire's ability to conduct a fully digital field artillery battalion fire mission from a single observer through the FDC to the howitzers or mortars. The system will be demonstrated with digital communications over data radio using Codan/DTC's 6161 SentryMesh software defined mobile ad hoc network (MANET) radios, linking the FDC.

Tom Murgatroyd, HDT sales executive, told the Show Daily that ARC-Fire was now integrated with the L3Harris Falcon IV family of radios, which would also be showcased at the show. He added that integration with UAS was also being developed. ARC-Fire has already been integrated with the AeroVironment Puma UAV. HDT has now purchased a Skydio X10 quadcopter for demonstration purposes and to provide more features for existing users.

HDT has recently completed user training in both Latvia and Hungary for the second tranche of deliveries of M12 120mm mortars for each country. This has included work with both mechanised and special forces. Future development work will include linking ARC-Fire to other NATO fire support C2 software as part of the Artillery Systems Cooperation Activities (ASCA) software framework, developing divisional level artillery nodes for long range fires and developing C2, firing solutions and communications for rocket groups at brigade and division level. ●

DORCUS DEPLOYABLE LIGHT ROCKET LAUNCHER INCREASES INFANTRY INDIRECT FIREPOWER

BY VALERIO DEL GRANDE

EXTPE
6A
B211

SOFRAME of France has teamed with MACJEE of Brazil to develop DORCUS (Deployable Off-Road Combat Unit System), a fully integrated indirect-fire 4x4 combat vehicle. Drawing on both companies' complementary expertise, DORCUS is designed to provide highly mobile forces with protected mobility and deployable rocket-based fire support.

At Eurosatory, a DORCUS concept vehicle in the 10-12 tonne class is being exhibited, featuring Level 2 protection and a 700 km operating range. When on the move, the rocket launcher is housed within the vehicle, which allows maximum discretion, the vehicle looking like a standard personnel carrier. Once the DORCUS comes to a halt, it takes 40 seconds to deploy the arm carrying the pod hosting 24 70 mm-rockets in three rows. When firing in sequence, only 100 milliseconds pass between the launch of one rocket and the next; the on-board fire control system allows firing sequences to be programmed. Once the pod is empty, the launcher goes back to the resting position, the expired pod being replaced by a new one without human intervention and the system goes back into firing position. Reloading time is less than one minute. Overall, the DORCUS carries three loaded pods, for a total of 72 rockets, which can be of different types: unguided standard rockets with an HE or a C-UAS warhead, or laser-guided rockets.

The DORCUS has a crew of two, the commander being able to control all deployment and firing sequences. This includes the extension of two hydraulic outriggers, not visible on the concept demonstrator exhibited at Eurosatory. With its load of 72 70 mm rockets, the DORCUS can provide indirect fire support to infantry troops at ranges between 3 and 10 km. ●

RTC WITH GUARDIARIS SHOWCASES CORNUS 6X6 WEAPONISED UGV

BY VALERIO DEL GRANDE

HALL
EXTPE 6A
STAND
C212

The Ukrainian conflict has brought uncrewed ground vehicles (UGVs) within the assets deployed by land forces to carry out complex missions in a more autonomous way.

Research and Technological Center, Slovenian R&D company developed a 6x6 wheeled hybrid driven UGV. RTC teamed up with Guardiaris, an innovative defence technology company specialized in advanced training and simulation solutions for modern armed forces. Cornus is the result of an R&D project commissioned by the Slovenian MoD and was heavily field tested in close collaboration with the Slovenian Armed Forces.

It has a kerb mass of 10,000-12,000 kg and can carry up to 4.000 kg of payload. It is fitted with a hybrid diesel-electric drive: each wheel has a 300-kW electric motor and an independent axle, a 150 kWe multi-fuel genset ensuring batteries reloading.

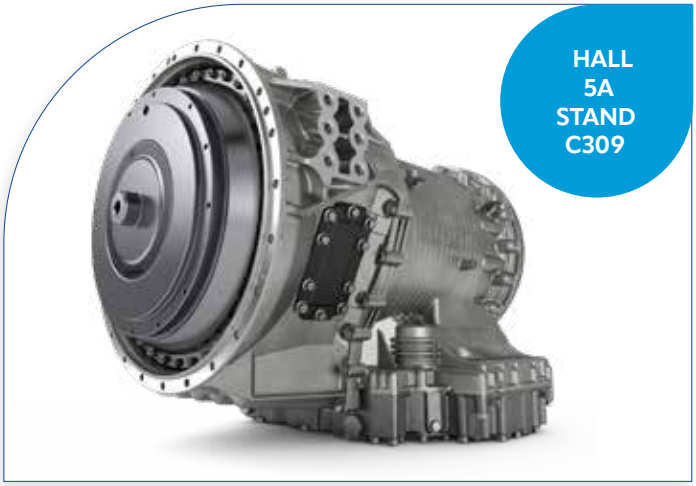
Maximum speed is over 90 km/h; diesel drive ensures over 350 km range at cruise speed and can travel for 40 km in silent mode batteries only. Ground clearance ranges from 0 to 900 mm due to innovative rotational axles; operating ground clearance is 450 mm, at which point the floor height is 1,750 mm. Suspension being independent, the platform can be levelled when on a side slope.

Cornus can be used in different control modes: direct operator control in dynamic environments, independent of the remote-control centre; line-of-sight control enabling operator management of the platform; autonomous tracking of a designated soldier or vehicles, maintaining safe distance and formation integrity; autonomous return home; AI-driven path planning along pre-defined waypoints, with terrain and obstacle-aware adaptations. The navigation kit, based on electro-optic, LIDAR and radar sensors, was developed by Carboteh, a fully Guardiaris-owned AI and electronics company.

Cornus is 4,700 mm long, 2,560 mm wide and load platform can carry up to three NATO pallets. Vehicle can be equipped with multiple mission modules including logistic, weapon stations, firefighting cannon, and customized ones. At Eurosatory 2026, Cornus is presented with the HEL 300 weapon station from Valhalla Turrets of Slovenia. ●

4040 MX™, THE NEW CROSS-DRIVE TRANSMISSION FOR MEDIUM TRACKED COMBAT VEHICLES, BY ALLISON TRANSMISSION

BY VALERIO DEL GRANDE



Specialised in the design and production of transmissions for wheeled and tracked vehicles, Allison Transmission unveils at Eurosatory 2026 the evolution of its 3040 MX cross-drive transmission, the 4040 MX, aimed at heavier and more powerful tracked vehicles.

The new transmission maintains the characteristics of the previous one, such as high-speed reverse, hydrostatically controlled infinitely variable integrated differential steering, and oil-cooled power assisted integrated service brakes, as well as independent park and emergency brake actuation. Allison Transmission managed to package this product in a similar form factor as the 3040 MX with minimal increased mass. Gearing remains the same with four forward and two reverse gears and includes one input-driven power take off.

What changes is the gross input power, stepping up from 600 kW/800 hp to 750 kW/1,000 hp. This means that the 4040 MX can be used on armoured vehicles with a combat mass up to 41.5 tonnes, while the 3040 MX is equipped to handle vehicles up to 36 tonnes. The 4040 MX supports the trend of increasing mass of tracked armoured infantry fighting vehicles, due to new add-on systems being considered, such as C-UAS to cope with the now ever-present threat coming from the sky. The 4040 MX completes Allison's cross-drive product portfolio which spans from 22 tonnes with the X200 model all the way up to 75 tonnes using the X1100 product.

Just before the opening of Eurosatory, Allison Transmission announced that its 4500 SP automatic transmission will equip the Zetros by Arquus" new French Army tactical trucks. The result a strategic partnership between Arquus and Daimler Truck, 7,000 trucks will be delivered in a 10-year timeframe from 2027.

TATRA OUT IN FORCE...

BY SHAUN CONNORS

At Eurosatory this year, TATRA, part of the Czechoslovak Group, is highlighting the company's latest Force 3rd Generation trucks. The Force 3rd generation was first shown publicly in a firefighting configuration in May 2023 and in a military configuration here at Eurosatory in 2024.

This latest evolution of the Force range remains based on Tatra's central backbone-style tubular frame that features independently suspended swinging half-axles. Force family models are available in standard 4×4, 6×6 and 8×8 configurations, while multi-axle variants with additional un-driven, driven or steerable axles are also available in varying configurations up to eight-axle 16×16.

A distinctive feature of this latest Force model line is its updated cab design, available in both short two-door and long four-door versions. The updated cab features a robust structure, enhanced driver/crew visibility, high levels of crew safety and a modern digitalised interior that includes dashboard.

The base vehicle design allows for the use of both conventional and armoured cabs, which can be swapped in the field if required.

The 3rd Generation Force is available with a variety of power plant options, including Tatra V8 and V12 air-cooled units, or liquid-cooled Cummins or Caterpillar units. Depending on engine choice, these can be mounted either under the front part of the cab and above the front axle, or under the rear part of the cab and behind the front axle. Engines are coupled to a selection of manual, automated, or fully automatic transmissions.

In addition to Force 3rd Generation models, TATRA also offers the Phoenix and T810 ranges. The Phoenix heavy-duty commercial range retain TATRA's tubular backbone-style frame and feature DAF/Paccar cabs end engines, while the lighter T810 range are based on a conventional rigid chassis. ●

HALL
5A
STAND
H189

ALL-METAL AND MODULAR HANDGUNS

BY JEAN-PIERRE HUSSON

Developed through a collaboration between Austrian company Steyr Arms and Slovenian manufacturer Arex Defence, the ATC/ATD pistol series comprises short-recoil-operated, hammer-fired semi-automatic pistols chambered in 9 mm Luger (9×19 mm) and built around metal frames. The pistols incorporate several safety features, including a disconnector safety, a firing pin safety and a drop safety, and they have been tested in accordance with NATO STANAG 4512 requirements.

The controls include a reversible magazine catch and an ambidextrous manual safety. Standard magazines hold 18 rounds, with extended +2 baseplates also available. The frame features an M1913 Picatinny accessory rail machined into the dust cover, while optics compatibility is provided through a plate system offering six different adapter plates.

Designed with modularity in mind, the platform allows trigger components to be interchanged so that DA/SA pistols can be converted to single-action-only (SAO) configuration. Slide assemblies are also interchangeable, and three sizes of tactical polymer grip panels are available. Steyr Arms also provides an open-source file for owners wishing to customise and 3D-print their own grips, as well as the frame's beavertail insert.

The Steyr AT series is split into two variants: the ATD (Defence), with a 4-inch/101 mm barrel, and the ATC (Competition), which is available with 5-inch/127 mm or 6-inch/152 mm barrels. The ATD is intended for concealed carry and self-defence. It features a steel slide, a cold hammer-forged chromoly steel barrel and an aluminium frame, with steel components treated with a nitro carburised finish. Its DA/SA firing system is complemented by a frame-mounted de cocker, while the sights consist of a black serrated rear sight and a front sight with a white dot, both mounted in dovetails. ●

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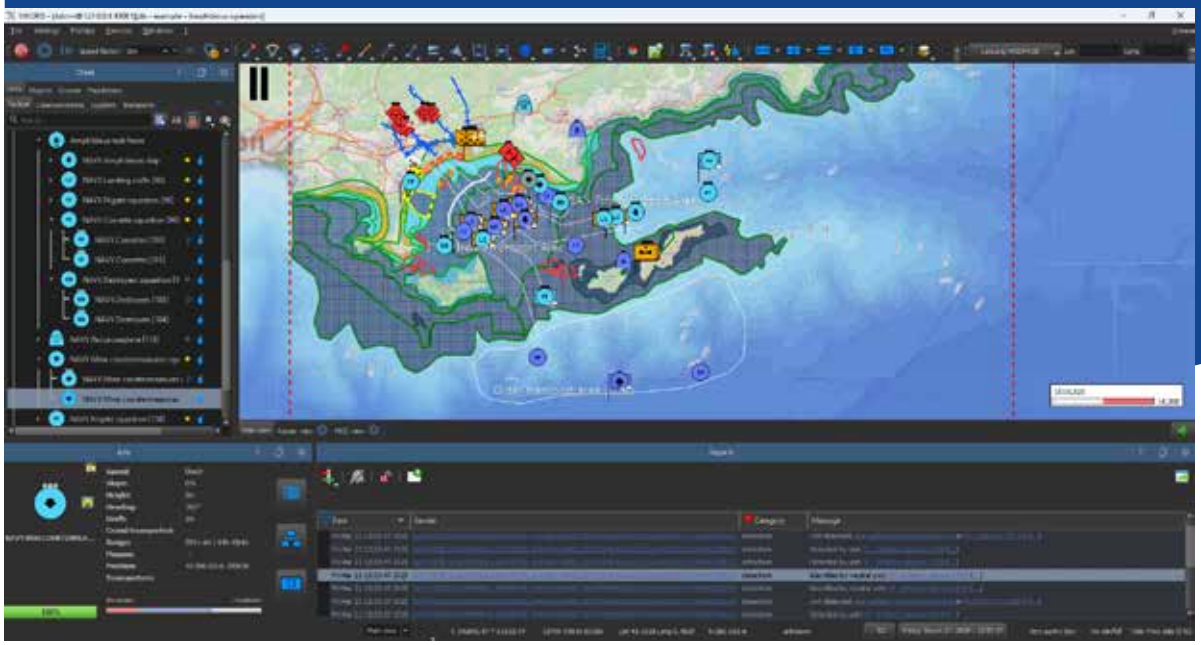
MASA SHOWCASES LATEST VERSION OF SWORD

BY GILES EBBUTT

HALL 5A STAND C74



French simulation specialist MASA Group has released the latest version of its SWORD constructive simulation and is showcasing it at Eurosatory. SWORD 6.27.1 is "a pivotal update designed to elevate joint training capabilities to greater heights of realism," according to the company.

Building directly on the foundational advances of version 6.26, this latest release completes a comprehensive suite of enhancements dedicated to naval and joint manoeuvres. Special emphasis has been placed on multi-domain operations, empowering forces to coordinate complex amphibious and shore-to-ship actions.

This release introduces comprehensive modelling of the entire amphibious group, enabling the complete automation of amphibious assaults. From beach reconnaissance and securing beachheads to integrated mine warfare, naval gunfire support and close air support, every phase of amphibious operations can now be simulated under autonomous control.

A centrepiece of version 6.27.1 is its robust simulation of oceanic environments and modern mine warfare. Users can now experience high levels of environmental fidelity: seabed topographies, categorised into four types, now influence the efficiency of mine countermeasures and sub-surface operations dynamically. In addition, the integration of Douglas swell scales and Beaufort wind force scales introduces physical friction that affects vessel velocity, fuel consumption and sensor performance under realistic sea states.

Subsurface warfare is also significantly enhanced, as all types of sonar systems can now be modelled. This allows for deep, precise simulation of undersea detection, search and tracking capabilities. Coupled with sensors that adapt to tactical postures and seabed conditions, SWORD delivers an accurate training environment for mine detection and avoidance.

MASA says that SWORD release 6.28 is now in development. This will introduce major advancements in maritime, naval air and electronic warfare. It will feature high-fidelity thermocline modeling to simulate the dynamic effects of thermal ocean layers on sonar detection and acoustic propagation. Naval air training will be expanded through the complete automation of carrier strike groups to streamline carrier flight operations and tasking.

Additionally, SWORD 6.28 will deliver enhanced tactical tools for anti-surface warfare and air defence, alongside significant electronic warfare improvements, including more realistic identification friend or foe and automatic identification system integration to provide a more faithful representation of the "fog of war".

MASA is also showcasing EGIDE, an innovative agentic AI suite designed to replicate a military command chain and reduce the number of operators needed for a computer-assisted exercise, as well as supporting decision-making through simulation.

EGIDE operates using a multi-agent system divided into three key roles. SCRIBA's goal is to understand «What is happening?». Using the simulation state, topographic maps, and tracking changes, it analyses the terrain and monitors threats to predict the most likely enemy courses of action. It then produces a detailed intelligence report and an update on the operational situation.

CONSUL's goal is to decide «What to do?». Based on SCRIBA's operational report, it defines high-level objectives and the best course of action (CoA). Finally, LEGIO's goal is to determine «How to do it?». It translates CONSUL's CoA into precise, technical SWORD missions (eg specific movement speeds, formations, and exact coordinates) while validating that the orders are feasible. It then outputs these for execution in the simulation.

MASA has also been continuing to work on the integration of SWORD with Systematic's SitaWare command and control and battle management software, for which it is showcasing the latest developments.

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BULLDOG BREED...

BY SHAUN CONNORS

Mack Defense - a subsidiary of Mack Trucks and thus ultimately of the Volvo Group - is highlighting the company's mission-ready tactical vehicles built on its proven commercial Granite platform. As of early 2026, the company is executing a range of high-value programmes for US armed forces that enhance logistics, construction and combat support capabilities.

For the US Army, Mack Defense was awarded a new five-year Indefinite Delivery/Indefinite Quantity (IDIQ) contract on 24 June 2025, valued at up to $221.8 million for as many as 450 additional M917A3 Heavy Dump Trucks (HDT). This follows the successful delivery of over 550 units from the prior 2018 contract. The first delivery order under the new contract covers 86 trucks, with vehicles assembled at the dedicated Mack Experience Center in Allentown, Pennsylvania. These all-wheel-drive, ruggedised dump trucks support critical engineering missions, including airfield and roadway construction, infrastructure maintenance, motor pool operations and disaster relief.

Simultaneously, for the Army's Common Tactical Truck (CTT) programme, Mack Defense has delivered prototypes for testing at Aberdeen Proving Grounds. The CTT aims to modernise the Army's heavy tactical fleet with standardised, efficient platforms that will probably be commercially based.

For the US Marine Corps, Mack Defense is advancing the Medium Tactical Truck (MTT) programme, the future replacement for the aging Medium Tactical Vehicle Replacement (MTVR) fleet. After passing the Critical Design Review stage in late 2024, the company secured Phase II prototype funding in 2025. It is building two prototypes - 10-foot and 20-foot cargo variants – based on the Granite chassis but extensively modified for Marine requirements. Prototype construction is underway, with delivery to the Marines targeted for mid-to-late 2026 followed by government testing into 2027. The MTT family will encompass cargo, dump, wrecker, tractor and re-supply configurations to sustain air-ground task force operations.

The company states that these and other efforts highlight Mack Defense's strategy of leveraging commercial-off-the-shelf (COTS) technologies for cost-effective, high-performance military vehicles. ●

NEW GOLD STANDARD IN TACTICAL DEMINING

BY JEAN-PIERRE HUSSON

The Italian leader in electromagnetic inspection, CEIA, sets a new benchmark for military and humanitarian demining operations with the CMD3 (Compact Metal Detector 3). This triple-sensor high-performance, high-sensitivity handheld detector weighs just over 2 kg (2.25 including batteries), is extremely compact when folded (387×157×76 mm), and extends up to 1.3 meters, a vital tactical advantage in combat or rapid reconnaissance scenarios. CMD3 detects magnetic and non-magnetic mines, including those with minimum metallic content, identifies non-metallic conductive components (e.g. graphite switches) and command wires, detecting IED trigger wires regardless of their orientation relative to the search head.

A one-piece foldable structure with a telescopic pole that allows the transition from transport to operational mode in less than 20 seconds, CMD3 uses CEIA's exclusive Automatic Soil Compensation system, which eliminates false signals caused by highly mineralised or magnetic soils without requiring manual calibration. This allows soldiers to operate across sand, magnetic rocks, or highly conductive terrain without manual calibration, maintaining peak detection sensitivity at all times. Its multimodal signalling provides acoustic alarms (tone modulation), visual feedback (concealable LED bar compatible with IR night vision goggles) and haptic (tactile) alerts. IP68 certified (waterproof), capable of operating in temperatures ranging from -46°C to +70°C, powered by 2 standard C-cell batteries (Ni-MH or alkaline), it features an integrated fast charger (max 3 hours) that works without removing the batteries, as well as GPS and a data logging system to document and provide quality control for clearance operations. The CMD3 reaffirms its status as an essential tool for combat engineers and EOD specialists worldwide. ●

PEARSON ENGINEERING'S NEXT-GENERATION COUNTER-MINE SOLUTIONS

BY TIM MAHON

HALL 6 STAND J38

According to the Landmine Monitor, at least 57 sovereign nations are now affected by mine contamination: Ukraine is unsurprisingly at the top of the list. Against this background, Pearson Engineering is unveiling its next-generation innovations in counter-mine robotics and automation.

Delegates at Eurosatory 2026 will be among the first to see the combination of the MineWolf MW370 Next-Generation mine warfare system and Threat-Sense. The MineWolf will feature in a future article: the innovative Threat-Sense solution is profiled here.

Threat-Sense is an advanced mine detection and classification system that uses integrated sensors, intelligent data-processing and computing-at-the-edge to swiftly identify explosive and hazardous object threats. Designed for both military operations and humanitarian clearance operations, it delivers fast, accurate threat information to support confident decision-making. The system locates, classifies and annotates suspect surface-laid mines, providing users with real-time data that will enable remedial action to be taken swiftly and efficiently.

More than that - it does all this using a novel approach to the challenge. "We are applying simulation to the problem and taking full advantage of advanced algorithms to accelerate and simplify response management," Pearson's Principal Engineer, Human-Machine Teaming, Amish Patel, told Show Daily in a pre-show briefing. The system is entirely independent and platform agnostic, also. It can sit in an individual soldier's hand, on a vehicle or as a 'ride-along' adjunct for patrol assets. Last year, the company collaborated with US UAS manufacturer Skydio, integrating Threat-Sense into the latter's X10D drone platform. Using the system in this manner empowers small units and combat engineering teams to map threats at up to 5km distance and to feed GPS-tagged data directly into battlefield management systems or TAK/ATAK devices. The utility of such a capability is immediately obvious: but the ease of use will be appreciated even more so when one considers there is virtually no learning curve that will delay operators from being able to take advantage of the system. "There is no training burden. If you can operate an on/off switch, you can use Threat-Sense," Pearson business development executive Wilf Sargant told Show Daily.

CEO Ian Bell said "The rise in global mine contamination is putting both military personnel and civilian communities at increased risk. At Pearson Engineering, we believe robotics and automation are central to addressing this challenge [...] The MW370 Next Generation and Threat-Sense reflect years of focused research and development."

Under the title "Simulate to Dominate: the Synthetic Path to Combat Engineering Superiority," Pearson will mount a full scale demonstration of the technologies at 15:30 on Monday 15th at Exhibition Corner.

DILLON AERO INNOVATION SOLUTIONS

BY JEAN-PIERRE HUSSON

HALL 5A STAND DE310

The latest and most significant innovation introduced by Dillon Aero is the M134D Suppressor (SD134) - a specialised, official suppressor designed specifically for the M134D Minigun. Suppressing a weapon that fires 3,000 rounds per minute of 7.62×51mm NATO ammunition presents massive engineering challenges, which Dillon Aero solved using advanced technology. The suppressor is manufactured using 3D DMLS (Direct Metal Laser Sintering) metal printing, which combines monolithic structural strength with the flexibility of interchangeable internal core components. Because the suppressor absorbs extreme heat, the company is conducting intensive testing to establish proper duty cycles and cooling times, utilising specific fire-to-rest ratios to preserve the structure.

Testing includes firing precise 6-second bursts (approx. 300 rounds) and testing specific cool-down multipliers to find the absolute breaking point and protect structural integrity. The system is not meant to make the weapon completely silent: rather, it drastically reduces the acoustic shock-wave and muzzle flash. This protects the hearing of operators firing from inside helicopter cabins or light armoured vehicles, while significantly improving radio communication and tactical coordination. In parallel, Dillon Aero has been actively promoting its Convoy Escort Vehicle (CEV). This is a modified, armoured SUV designed for VIP protection that looks entirely civilian and indistinguishable from a standard vehicle. However, it conceals an M134D Minigun on a retractable turret inside the cabin. The weapon system can deploy and open fire in less than 3 seconds and retract fully, into hiding, in under 8 seconds.

SPECIALLY FOR CQB

BY JEAN-PIERRE HUSSON

HALL 6 STAND D 26

Representing the latest evolution of the SIG Sauer MCX-SPEAR and the M7 NGSW-R (Next Generation Squad Weapon-Rifle), the XM8 carbine is engineered specifically for close-quarters combat, in which weight and handling are critical. The new carbine is just over 32 inches long overall (810mm), compared to 37 inches (940mm) for the M7, with a barrel length dropped from 13 to 11 inches (330 to 280mm) and its suppressor from 7 to 6 inches (10 to 150mm). The XM8 is also lighter than the M7: without the suppressor, the carbine weighs 7.33 pounds (3,33kg) while the M7 weighs 8.36 pounds (3,80kg) and its suppressor shaves down to 1.31 pounds (595g) from the M7's 1.46 (662g). All of this reduces the physical burden on soldiers operating in confined environments, such as urban terrain, dense vegetation and vehicle-mounted scenarios.

This reduction translates directly into faster target acquisition, improved weapon control and reduced fatigue during prolonged engagements. Despite its smaller footprint, the XM8 retains full compatibility with the US Army 6.8×51mm ammunition, a key component of the NGSW programme aimed at over-matching peer adversaries equipped with advanced body armour. This ensures that the carbine delivers greater range, penetration and terminal effect than the 5.56mm M4A1 it is replacing. The carbine is also equipped with a fixed stock, soldiers having expressed their preference for the latter over the folding stock of the M7, which is more practical but is not as robust as a rigid stock. A critical feature and major advantage of the XM8 is its seamless integration with the M157 Small Arms Fire Control system. Already used with the M7 rifle and the belt-fed, select-fire XM250 light machine gun, this advanced optic incorporates ballistic computation, laser range finding, environmental sensors and digital display overlays to improve first-round hit probability.

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