EUROSATORY Daily.

DAY 2

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"Transparent battlefield" has become a commonly used way to define today war zones, which are densely populated by sensors of all types, optical, optronic, thermal and radar, widely deployed among troops, land platforms, UAVs, helicopters, aircraft, and satellites. At any

continues p 3

Interview with Jean-Michel Jacques, Chair of the Committee on National Defense and the Armed Forces
p 18

Interview with Major General Nicolas Leverrier, Director of DPID
p 30

MGCS Moves Closer to a Hybrid Future
p 38

Fenris 6x6 illustrates Arquus' full integration into John Cockerill Group
p 40

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moment the chances that someone is observing you using one of sensors is very high. Hiding under a tree is no more effective for a soldier.

Barracuda, and then Saab since it acquired the former company in 1999, have been key players in this field for almost 70 years, the originating company was created in 1957, and since they sold over 100 million m^2 of camouflage. From fishing nets with fabric leaves to today material technology has evolved dramatically.

According to statistics from the war in Ukraine, over 80% of casualties are linked to sensor-enabled long-range fires, while AI-supported sensor fusion and the widespread use of drones dramatically accelerate target detection. Multispectral camouflage of vehicles and static positions has become essential to avoid detection, particularly from drones and reconnaissance aircraft. It is however useless hiding a command post under a multispectral Ultra-Lightweight Camouflage Screen (ULCAS) or masking a vehicle with Barracuda Mobile Camouflage System (MCS), if a soldier leaving the cover is not adequately camouflaged, becoming the weak link of the camouflage chain, rendering useless the effectiveness of other Saab Barracuda systems that allow for an 80-90% reduction in multispectral signature. These include the Ultra-Lightweight Camouflage Screen Frequency Selective Surface (ULCAS-FSS) technology that allows selected communication and GPS frequencies to pass through the camouflage net while maintaining protection against radar detection. This technology marks a significant advancement in signature management, improving tactical communication flexibility without compromising multispectral protection.

Three are the main elements that can give away the position of an armoured unit, an artillery battery, a command post, a logistic centre, or other military organisations on the battlefield: vehicles track on the terrain, radiofrequency emissions, and inadequately camouflaged soldiers. The two first issues can be mitigated using the right procedures, while the personnel issue can be solved using effective camouflage.

Soldiers' uniforms are made of infrared absorbing fabric; this is not enough to hide an individual from state-of-the-art sensors. Hence the need of an overgarment. The Saab portfolio included the Soldier System, the first release of a new type of personal camouflage, currently in use with several armies. Based on lessons learned provided by customers, Saab developed a new individual camouflage system, the Barracuda Poncho, to improve the previous system.

The Poncho has a rectangular shape, 2.5 metres long and 1.4 metres wide, while the Soldier System had a 2 x 2 metres square shape; this allows to better cover the front part of the body as well as legs. Moreover, the Poncho features a hood that fits all type of helmet and head size and helps following head movements right and left. Although it can give away position, especially against thermal imagers, the face remains uncovered, as soldiers want to maintain maximum situational awareness. Along the side of the camouflage sheet, we find pushbuttons that allow putting together more than one Poncho; a typical use is connecting two of them to hide a sniper team or an observation post.

The Barracuda Poncho is made of water repellent and flame-retardant fabric and is reversible. The side for day operations has a colour pattern for disrupting visual observation and has the right reflection in the near- and shortwave infrared. It is available in arctic, woodland, and stony desert colour patterns. At night the Poncho is reversed and appears grey; as in darkness there is no colour reflection, this side reflects the ice-cold night sky acting like a mirror, fooling sensors as it shows a much cooler surface, like that of the background. The material itself is the same used in the Soldier System, the overall mass of the system being 1,100 grams.

The Barracuda Poncho is readily available, and Saab has already a launch customer. As demand for multispectral camouflage is rising rapidly, the company is investing to increase production capacity. It is also looking at cooperation with customers' local industry, as in the case of France, where Saab ULCAS is being produced by Solarmtex, similar partnership being extendable to other customers.

As sensor technology, AI, and drone warfare continue to evolve, camouflage is no longer a supporting capability - it is becoming a decisive force multiplier on the modern battlefield.

EUROSATORY OPENS AT A TIME OF STRATEGIC UNCERTAINTY, SAYS FRENCH ARMED FORCES MINISTER

BY JULIEN CHABROUT

Eurosatory 2026 opened on Monday morning in a notably sober atmosphere, as France's Minister for the Armed Forces and Veterans, Catherine Vautrin, delivered a keynote address shaped by what she described as a period of profound global upheaval. Speaking after attending a dynamic live demonstration by the French Army, the Minister set a serious tone for this year's edition of the world's leading land and air-land defence exhibition.

"This exhibition opens in a spirit of gravity," Vautrin stated, pointing to an increasingly unstable international environment marked by ongoing conflicts in Ukraine and the Middle East. She warned that "hybrid threats are multiplying" and that "no domain is immune to conflict", underlining the expanding scope of modern warfare. These threats, she noted, do not only target armed forces but also extend to businesses, infrastructure, public opinion, institutions, and social cohesion.

In a strong show of solidarity, the Minister highlighted the presence of 40 Ukrainian companies at Eurosatory, describing this participation as "considerable" in the current context. Her remarks reinforced the exhibition's role, not only as a commercial platform but also as a reflection of geopolitical realities.

Despite the challenging environment, Vautrin emphasised that France is actively preparing to meet these threats. "France has fully grasped the scale of global transformations," she said, pointing to a defence budget that has doubled over the past decade under President Emmanuel Macron. She also reiterated France's position as the world's second-largest arms exporter, calling it a source of national pride.

A central theme of her address was the need for continuous adaptation. "The adaptation of our armed forces is a permanent necessity," she stated, adding that victory in modern conflicts is no longer determined solely on the battlefield. "It is also decided on production lines. Our primary weapon is the factory," she said, stressing the importance of industrial capacity in ensuring both national sovereignty and support for allies.

Vautrin further underlined the importance of European cooperation in defence. While France has shifted "from a logic of repair to one of rearmament", she insisted that this effort must be pursued collectively at the European level. She warned against the risk of strategic lag, noting that delayed or poorly coordinated investment could result in outdated capabilities. To mitigate this, she called for enhanced cooperation, pooled investment, harmonised requirements, and a stronger European Defence Technological and Industrial Base (EDTIB) to guarantee operational autonomy and interoperability.

Looking ahead, the Minister also addressed the human dimension of defence. She announced continued active recruitment efforts across the sector, spanning not only the armed forces but also industry and research institutions. Engineers, technicians, researchers, and financial experts are all in demand, reflecting the increasingly multidisciplinary nature of defence. "The defence community requires an exceptional range of skills and talent," she said.

Earlier in the morning, Vautrin attended a large-scale dynamic demonstration by the French Army, designed to simulate high-intensity conflict in Europe. She described the display as "impressive" and as offering "a window into contemporary combat". The demonstration showcased operational know-how tested under real-world conditions and highlighted three key priorities for future readiness: adaptation, rapid innovation and anticipation.

This year's Eurosatory brings together more than 2,600 exhibitors from 68 countries and over 300 official delegations, setting a new record. "It is the largest event in the world dedicated to land and air-land defence and security," Vautrin noted, adding that France is proud to host such a global gathering.

GICAT Chairman Emmanuel Levacher echoed this sentiment, describing Eurosatory as having reached "an unprecedented scale" and reaffirming its status as the premier international defence exhibition. For France, the event remains a powerful showcase of its defence and security industry at a time when global demand for capability, resilience, and cooperation has never been higher.

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BAE SYSTEMS HÄGGLUNDS INVESTING IN PRODUCTION AWAITING NEW CV90 MAIN ORDER

BY VALERIO DEL GRANDE

HALL 5A STAND B371

Over the last six years, the workforce at BAE Systems Hägglunds has increased from 750 to 2,600. Investment in personnel and infrastructure is allowing the company to react to a production surge that followed the geopolitical changes in Europe since February 2022. The Örnsköldsvik facility is being reorganised following the first round of US$300 million in investments and floor space has been increased by 30%.

Hall D was added, new space and machinery doubling welding capacity, with full operational capacity scheduled by year end, all welding machines now dedicated to CV90 production since BvS10B welding has been outsourced. Hall A hosts seven CV90 and 15 BvS10 assembly stations, Hall B hosts logistics, while Hall C is dedicated to series production, cutting and welding. Turret production is ongoing in several customers countries, while until recently CV90 hull production was all done in Sweden. Now, Ritek of Norway has started production, Hydrema in Denmark is ready to start, and MSM in Slovakia and Excalibur in the Czech Republic are producing initial items for their national contracts.

The first round of investments allowed a second main building to be added at the Test and Verification Centre which now hosts quality assurance, final painting, and customer handover, freeing space at the production site and streamlining the overall process. A third building, which will host the new logistics centre, is being built, thanks to a US$150 million second round.

With a CV90 order book just short of 600 vehicles and a joint procurement contract awaited, led by Sweden and involving Finland, Lithuania, the Netherlands and Norway for around 800 vehicles, BAE Systems Hägglunds is gearing up: the order will allow the production lines to remain open until 2032.

A CV90 in Dutch configuration, reflecting the platform's modularity and the company's strategy of deep industrial partnerships across Europe, is exhibited at Eurosatory.

PERMANENT SURVEILLANCE DRONE-IN-A-BOX SOLUTION: TELEDYNE FLIR BLACK RECON BECOMES REALITY

BY VALERIO DEL GRANDE

HALL 5A STAND A129

The concept was unveiled three years ago: now Black Recon - the autonomous micro-drone system allowing autonomous launch and recovery from a container hosting three UAVs - has become reality, as Teledyne FLIR announces its official market launch at Eurosatory 2026.

A compact system, 680x650x450 mm, with a mass of approximately 85 kg, the container features a grabber that takes the drone from its compartment, where its batteries are recharged, brings it to the take-off position and, once the micro-UAV is ready to fly, disengages. The process is reversed on landing, the grabber "capturing" the Black Recon UAV in flight and bringing it back to its compartment. Before recovering the first Black Recon, another can be launched, to ensure permanent ISR, if required: there are three UAVs hosted in the container. Launch operations take less than 30 seconds, while recovery takes under 45 seconds.

The electrically-powered helicopter-like UAV has a 50-60 minute flight endurance; in standard configuration its mass is 450 g, its payload consisting of a 12 MP upward-looking sensor, a 50 MP wide angle camera, and three 640x512 pixel thermal cameras. An additional 100 grams payload of a lethality, SIGINT, or other nature can be added, to reach a maximum take-off mass of 550 grams. Maximum flight speed is 24 m/s, operational ceiling being 12,000 ft.

The Black Recon uses the same software, controller, and radio architecture of the smaller Black Hornet 4, which allows full interoperability, the operator controlling both the vehicle-borne ISR airframe as well as drones launched by individual soldiers.

A datalink with AES-256 encrypted communications and a 6 km range ensures the control of the drone and the real-time download of images, range being extended using flying relays based on UAVs.

Black Recon was designed for seamless integration into wheeled and tracked vehicles and can also be integrated with turrets and weapon systems, providing real-time situational awareness. It can also be deployed from fixed installations.

A fully integrated simulator is available to ensure maximum training proficiency without putting operational hardware at risk.

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HALL 5A STAND D409

CHESS HIGHLIGHTS HAWKEYE MS ACCURACY ACHIEVEMENT

BY GILES EBBUTT

Chess Dynamics, part of Cohort plc Group, has achieved Target Location Error (TLE) Category One accuracy with its Hawkeye Multi Sensor (MS) system, following a series of formal field assessments carried out as part of an evaluation programme for the defence ministry of a NATO member nation, the company announced on the opening day of Eurosatory.

CTLE is a recognised measure used across defence to assess how closely a generated coordinate aligns with the true position of a target. Category One represents the highest classification and requires calculated target coordinates to fall within a radius of less than six metres of the actual location for at least 90% of measurements.

During formal assessment in field trials under operational scenarios, Hawkeye MS exceeded this threshold, achieving under-six metre accuracy in 94% of measurements at a range of 8km. This level of precision is of critical importance in GPS-denied environments and forms an essential part of responsible and effective fire control. Category One performance at ranges of 8km requires the seamless integration of a precision positioner, high-definition sensors and advanced data processing, enabling reliable target coordinate generation in demanding operational conditions.

Field trials have also demonstrated Category Two performance at greater ranges, with Hawkeye MS achieving 15-metre accuracy at 17km.

Andy Smith, Managing Director of Chess Dynamics, said "Achieving Category One accuracy is a significant milestone for Chess, and for the Hawkeye MS. It reflects the maturity of the system and the progress made through structured assessment."

Chess is showcasing the Hawkeye family of systems at Villepinte, demonstrating how they enhance situational awareness, threat detection and precision engagement. The company is also highlighting the capabilities of its Vision4ce technology, which provides the advanced tracking, target classification and image processing algorithms integrated across the Hawkeye portfolio.

The Hawkeye MS system builds on the combat-proven Hawkeye Vehicle System for long-range detection and 24-hour target observation. According to Chess, the system is designed for easy installation, can be integrated onto any tracked or wheeled vehicle and is suitable for both fixed and mobile deployments. Its modular design allows additional payloads to be incorporated, expanding system capabilities and supporting mission-specific configurations.

Also on display is the Hawkeye AD (air defence) system which provides an integrated fire control solution for all types of ballistic effectors. It contains high-definition thermal imager and daylight TV sensors, coupled with a high-performance laser range finder which is all co-mounted on a dynamic direct drive positioner.

With a built-in tracker, Hawkeye AD delivers precise three-dimensional coordinates of both air and surface targets to gun control or combat systems. Leveraging Vision4ce's advanced tracking technology, the system enables rapid target acquisition and continuous tracking, supporting engagement of fast-moving and challenging threats. Hawkeye AD is suitable for use on either fixed or mobile platforms.

The Hawkeye EOSS-D (Electro Optical Surveillance System Digital) is a powerful surveillance and reconnaissance system that can be mounted in a fixed installation or in a stabilised configuration on vehicles. Its digital architecture supports the use of the latest generation thermal imager and TV camera sensors. Vision4ce is also integrated into the system. ●

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GICAT MEMBER

COMBINATION...

BY SHAUN CONNORS

OUTSIDE IN AREA PE6B

Rheinmetall subsidiary Rheinmetall MAN Military Vehicles (RMMV) is displaying an HX81 tractor truck coupled to a Nooteboom semi-trailer (no additional hyphen) among a selection of other trucks. Earlier this year Rheinmetall and Dutch company Nooteboom announced a collaboration that will see the joint development and global marketing of heavy equipment transport trailers. These trailers will be manufactured in Romania and will enable RMMV to offer complete heavy transport solutions from a single source.

The displayed combination features a Nooteboom MPL-121-08 (D) trailer laden with a Rheinmetall (no hyphen) Lynx IFV. With a loadbed length of 13.8m (18.03 m overall) this 29 tonne unladen trailer has a maximum payload of 92 tonnes so, in addition to the heaviest of main battle tanks, is technically capable of transporting a pair of lighter IFVs or larger indivisible loads of all types, including ISO containers. For wider loads, the 2.99 m loadbed is fitted with extenders up to a width of 3.49 m. For manouverability, all eight pendular axles steer, the front three counter-steering.

The HX81 is a four-axle (all driven) tractor truck that has a gross combination weight (GCW) rating of 130 tonnes. Motive power is provided by a MAN V8, 16.16 litre diesel rated at EURO 5 emissions compliance and developing 680 hp (500 kW) at 1,900 rpm: peak torque is 2,700 Nm at 1,000 to 1,700 rpm. The torque delivery curve is optimised to match the ZF TC-Tronic automated constant mesh gearbox that has 12 forward and two reverse gears and is coupled to a ZF WSK 440 torque converter and MAN G253 two-speed transfer case with full-time all-wheel drive. The driveline is commercially derived, but modified and upgraded as required for tactical military applications.

The HX81 is understood to be in service with at least seven users, including Australia, Austria, Germany, Norway, Saudi Arabia, Ukraine, and the UAE. In addition to the military-specific HX range, RMMV also offers militarised versions of MAN's TGS range of tractor trucks for heavy equipment transport roles.

SHADOW 3: EDGE'S DUAL-ROLE INTERCEPTOR FOR THE NEW ERA OF COUNTER-UAS OPERATIONS

BY VALERIO DEL GRANDE

As armed forces accelerate investment in layered C-UAS architectures, the focus is increasingly shifting towards mobile, scalable, and cost-effective intercept capabilities able to defeat rapidly evolving aerial threats. At Eurosatory 2026, EDGE is presenting Shadow 3, a portable VTOL system designed to address this operational requirement via a dual-role approach combining aerial interception and precision strike functionality. This dual-mission flexibility reflects the growing demand for adaptable and economically sustainable responses to mass drone threats emanating from current conflicts.

Developed for contested environments, Shadow 3 integrates autonomous target acquisition and engagement, computer vision navigation, and GPS anti-(no hyphen) jamming capabilities into a compact, rapidly deployable platform. The system has already completed successful flight, aerial interception, and precision strike testing, validating its operational concept against modern battlefield requirements.

The platform is available in both electric and turbine jet propulsion variants, offering speeds ranging from 200 km/h to over 400 km/h depending on configuration, with a range exceeding 30 km and endurance of up to 20 minutes.

Dimensions vary depending on the variant, length ranging from 1 to 2.5 m while its X-wings span between 0.5 and 2.0 m. In the electric-powered version, the X-shaped tailplane short wings each carry two electric motors activating two-bladed propellers, a miniature jet turbine providing thrust in the jet-powered version. Take-off mass is over 16 kg and the Shadow 3 carries a 3 kg warhead in the strike version.
Autonomous optical guidance and GNSS-enabled navigation further support operations in electronically contested environments.
As militaries continue seeking agile solutions capable of closing the gap between traditional air defence systems and the ability to counter proliferating low-cost aerial threats, SHADOW 3 positions itself as a compact, operationally flexible addition to the evolving C-UAS ecosystem. ●

ECHOSHIELD 4D, MEDIUM-RANGE RADAR MUSCLE FOR MULTI-MISSION DEFENCE AT EUROSATORY

BY JOSEPH ROUKOZ

HALL 5A STAND B275

Presented at Eurosatory 2026, Echodyne's EchoShield® multi-mission 4D radar pushes electronically scanned array capability firmly into the medium-range domain, offering next-generation detection performance for fixed, portable and on-the-move (OTM) applications. Built on the company's cognitive Metamaterials ESA (MESA®) architecture, this software-defined, pulse-Doppler radar delivers highly accurate four-dimensional data - range, azimuth, elevation and Doppler - tailored in real time to the threat environment.

Operating in the Ku-band between 15.4 and 16.6 GHz, EchoShield combines advanced waveforms with agile beam-scheduling to search very large volumes of airspace and ground with exceptional precision. Its electronically steered beam covers a generous field of view of 130° in azimuth by 90° in elevation, with track accuracy better than 0.5° in both planes and a 10 Hz update rate. Designed for dense, cluttered airspaces, the radar can simultaneously manage more than 1,000 objects of interest, providing high-fidelity tracking data to command-and-control systems, effectors and electro-optical/infrared sensors.

EchoShield's counter-UAS performance significantly extends the protective bubble beyond the short-range layer, with typical tracking ranges from several kilometres for Group 1 UAVs out to more than 10 km for larger Group 3 systems, while in the perimeter-surveillance role it detects human movement and vehicles at many kilometres, giving commanders early warning and valuable decision time. Physically, the radar measures roughly 43 x 33 x 19 cm and weighs under 20 kg, with power draw kept below 250 W in operation and under 100 W in hot standby. Built to IP67 and MIL-STD-810H, and integrating via high-speed Ethernet interfaces, EchoShield is engineered for demanding mobile deployments and complex, multi-sensor defence architectures.

HUBGEN TARGETS FASTER, SMARTER HYDROGEN DEPLOYMENT

HALL 5A STAND B344

BY JOSEPH ROUKOZ

At Eurosatory, ST Engineering is showcasing HubGen for the first time at the event, positioning the 1-MW hydrogen electrolyser as a compact, all-in-one answer to decentralised hydrogen production. The company is pitching the system as a fast, simple and reliable way to produce hydrogen where space, time and operational resilience matter most.

HubGen is a pressurised alkaline electrolyser designed for small and medium-scale applications, with a net production rate of 200 Nm3/h, equivalent to 431 kg of hydrogen per day. It offers a delivery pressure of 30 bar (g) and hydrogen purity of up to 99.999% after gas cleaning, making it suitable for demanding industrial use. The system's specific energy consumption is 57 kWh/kgH2, while its operating efficiency is given as 70% (HHV). The unit has been engineered for rapid deployment. According to the manufacturer, the containerised solution can be installed on just eight concrete plinths, connected through predefined interfaces, and made operational within three days on site. Its footprint is kept deliberately small at 15 x 2.8 x 3.9 metres, with an upper platform measuring 11 x 2.5 metres, and a dry weight of 60.7 tonnes. It is intended to operate in ambient temperatures from -20°C to 45°C, with a noise emission level of 90 dBA at full load with optional noise reduction available.

The platform is built around a modular, standardised architecture and is said to be scalable as demand increases. It accepts a 10 kV or 20 kV medium-voltage connection and uses a 1.25 MVA power supply for electrolysis, alongside a 125 kVA auxiliary supply. The electrolyte is a 30 wt per cent KOH aqueous solution, with water quality required to meet EU drinking water standards. ST Engineering also highlights intelligent monitoring and an AI-based cyber security layer for operational technology. With an expected service life of 20 years, HubGen is being presented as a practical platform for chemical feedstock, energy storage, process heat and transport fuel applications. Its Eurosatory debut underlines the growing crossover between energy resilience, industrial decarbonisation and security-minded engineering. ●

GENERAL ATOMICS BRINGS GAME-CHANGING LONG-RANGE ARTILLERY TO EUROSATORY

BY JOSEPH ROUKOZ

General Atomics Electromagnetic Systems (GA-EMS) is set to spotlight a major step forward in artillery modernisation at this year's Eurosatory, unveiling its rebranded extended-range manoeuvring projectile for 155 mm launchers. Building on the company's heritage in advanced electromagnetic, space, missile-defence and precision-strike technologies, the new round is designed to dramatically extend the reach and flexibility of existing tube artillery for US, allied and international customers.

Compatible with standard 39- and 52-calibre howitzers, the projectile delivers two to three times the range of conventional 155 mm artillery, pushing engagements out to over 120 km while retaining precision at distance. A lifting-body airframe with deployable wings gives the round a glide and manoeuvre capability once it leaves the gun, enabling controlled flight profiles and "endgame" course changes to strike static, obscured or moving targets. Onboard guidance, fusing and power provide autonomous navigation, even in heavily jammed, GPS-degraded or GPS-denied environments.

GA-EMS also emphasises payload and mission flexibility, with the projectile engineered to support a range of effects from kinetic strike to ISR roles. A new European co-production partnership, to be detailed at the show, is intended to accelerate industrial ramp-up and support rapid fielding across EU and NATO forces using their existing artillery fleets. For land forces seeking affordable massed fires, extended standoff and assured precision in contested domains, the GA-EMS extended-range manoeuvring projectile offers a compelling glimpse of the future of 155 mm artillery.

ASELSAN'S KILIÇ: STEALTH UNDERWATER HUNTER

BY JOSEPH ROUKOZ

At Eurosatory, Turkish defence company ASELSAN showcased its KILIÇ family of autonomous underwater strike systems that has been very recently launched, marking a significant step forward in subsurface warfare capabilities. Designed for asymmetric warfare and covert operations, the KILIÇ series reflects a growing emphasis on stealth, modularity and autonomous mission execution in contested maritime environments.

The KILIÇ family comprises several variants tailored to different operational requirements, all sharing a common architecture that prioritises portability, low acoustic signature and precision engagement. Compact and deployable from a range of platforms, including surface vessels and potentially unmanned carriers, these systems are optimised for rapid insertion into operational theatres.

Technically, the systems integrate advanced navigation suites combining inertial navigation systems (INS), Doppler velocity logs (DVL), and acoustic positioning, ensuring reliable operation in GPS-denied environments. Their onboard sensor packages are understood to include high-resolution sonar for obstacle avoidance, target detection and seabed mapping, enabling effective performance in complex underwater terrain..

Communication is achieved through secure acoustic modems, allowing data exchange with operators or other units within a networked framework. This capability supports coordinated swarm operations, a key feature of the KILIÇ concept, whereby multiple units can operate collaboratively to overwhelm defences or cover wider areas of interest.

In terms of endurance, the systems are powered by advanced battery technologies, offering extended mission durations while maintaining a low detectability profile. Their propulsion systems are engineered for quiet operation, reducing the risk of counter-detection during sensitive missions.

The KILIÇ systems are designed to carry mission-specific payloads, including kinetic or non-kinetic effectors, depending on operational requirements. This modular approach enhances flexibility, allowing the same platform to be configured for surveillance, interdiction or strike roles.

By combining autonomy, stealth and networked capabilities, ASELSAN positions the KILIÇ family as a versatile tool for modern naval forces. Its introduction to international audiences at Eurosatory highlights the increasing importance of unmanned subsurface systems in multi-domain operations, particularly in scenarios where discretion and precision are paramount.

TEXELIS DEFENCE BECOMES KNDS MOBILITY AND GOES 8X8

BY VALERIO DEL GRANDE

Announced in early 2025, the acquisition of Texelis defence business by KNDS became a reality in April 2026 and for the first time the company is exhibiting at a major exhibition with its new brand, KNDS Mobility.

KNDS Mobility is a subsidiary fully owned by KNDS France and is the group's mobility centre of excellence for wheeled systems. It will therefore work with all KNDS entities, providing its expertise and products, as well as receiving solutions to be integrated on its platforms. KNDS Mobility is also moving into the tracked vehicles market with its newly developed TED, finding for example full synergies with KNDS Tracks, another KNDS subsidiary. Integration in the group has just started so we can expect to see its first effects soon.

However, being part of the KNDS group will not place any limits on direct collaboration with other OEMs.

Two years ago, Texelis unveiled a 6x6 solution, derived from the 4x4. At Eurosatory 2026 KNDS Mobility unveils its Celeris 8x8 solution, which retains the Celeris philosophy of combining developed mobility kits and extensive customisation. The company cooperated on several 8x8 programmes, including the Serbian Lazar 3 and the Singaporean Terrex, its T900 axles being at the core of those systems. It is currently working on the EGC wheeled combat engineer vehicle for France and Belgium.

KNDS Mobility wishes to propose a flexible solution capable of being adapted to adder-chassis or monocoque-based-vehicles, as well as to high mobility logistic trucks. The decisive step was the contract obtained in late 2024 by a first tier OEM for the development of an 8x8 platform, the customer name remaining undisclosed for the time being.

The 8x8 solution will, of course, be based on T900 axles, the different architectures maintaining the highest possible commonality between these axles. KNDS Mobility aims at developing a new 8x8 vehicle with a partner in one year and fully localising production, as it has done with three 4x4 vehicles, in addition to the French Army's Serval. ●

SCAR + AR15 = FN ARKA, THE NEWEST PRODUCT FROM THE HERSTAL COMPANY

BY VALERIO DEL GRANDE

With its official presentation at Eurosatory 2026, FN Herstal's new rifle, the 5.56 mm FN ARKA, has rightfully entered the Belgian arms manufacturer's catalogue. The new weapon follows a trend that has become apparent in recent years: developing individual weapons with ergonomics similar, if not identical, to those of the AR-15 family, which has now become a standard in the Western world. Thus FN Herstal has launched the FN ARKA, which retains the company's DNA by adopting the action of the SCAR and combining it with the ergonomics of the AR-15.

The FN ARKA takes from the AR-15 the T-shaped charging handle, selectors and catches, pistol grip and buttstock interfaces being compatible with components designed for the AR family. FN made the weapon fully ambidextrous, including bolt catch, selector and magazine release. The buttstock is the typical AR stock that allows for adjusting the length of pull to adapt the weapon to the shooter's size.

The operating mechanism remains the proven and reliable gas-operated one with short-stroke piston and rotating bolt from the FN SCAR, with its locking mechanism able to cope with considerable overpressure. Beside allowing for operation of the weapon in difficult conditions, the adjustable gas regulator allows use of a suppressor, such as the flow-through sound suppressor already qualified for the SCAR, which ensures a constant weapon cycle and reduced blowback.

The new 5.56x45 mm weapon is being provided in three different versions. The shorter one is the Close Quarter Combat (CQC) variant, fitted with an 11.25-inch (285 mm) barrel; depending on the buttstock position, length is between 735 and 820 mm, while with an empty magazine mass is 3.7 kg. The FN ARKA Standard is fitted with a 14.5-inch (368 mm) barrel, length being increased to 850-935 mm. The mass depends on the length of the handguard, the rifle with the short one being 3.9 kg while that with the long one is 4.0 kg.

The assembly line is poised to start working and the FN ARKA will become available to customers. ●

JEAN-MICHEL JACQUES: "EUROPE MUST REMAIN MASTER OF ITS DESTINY"

BY JULIEN CHABROUT

As chair of the National Defence and Armed Forces Committee, Jean-Michel Jacques offers to Eurosatory Show Daily a clear-eyed assessment of a world that has become more unstable than ever, amid the war in Ukraine, the conflict in the Middle East and the rise of hybrid threats. In this interview, the Member of Parliament for Morbihan defends France's strengths, particularly the resilience of its Defence Industrial and Technological Base, and calls for a more integrated, more sovereign and more resilient European defence. At a time when high-intensity conflict has returned, he urges Europeans to strengthen cooperation without giving up strategic autonomy, so that they can remain masters of their destiny.

War between Russia and Ukraine, war in the Middle East: conflict has been a constant since you were elected chairman of the committee. In this context, how do MPs engage with these issues, within their own remit?

Each of us is indeed aware that the international context has clearly deteriorated in recent years. Alongside the war in Ukraine and the conflagration in the Middle East, there are multiple threats, often hybrid in nature: the persistence of the terrorist threat, the rise of artificial intelligence, the frequent incursions of hostile drones into our airspace, and the increasing number of foreign interference operations.

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The national representation is both aware of and mobilised around these issues, which have direct consequences for our national defence. In this respect, the work and thinking carried out by the National Defence and Armed Forces Committee are particularly important. I am thinking, for example, of the series of hearings and working sessions we have devoted to the war economy, European defence, the military condition, and hybrid warfare, as well as the various information reports published in recent months. This enables us to develop genuine expertise and to make a useful contribution to the drafting and scrutiny of the laws passed, in particular the Military Programming Law, which was subject to an update examined by Parliament.

Outside the National Assembly, these issues resonate particularly strongly in our territories: MPs are essential links in the Nation-Army relationship. For my part, I take this role very seriously: for example, last October I organised a public meeting on the changing geostrategic context, and I am preparing the fourth edition of the "Innovation and Defence Industry Meetings" in Morbihan (editor's note: a key civil-military event designed to support the scaling up of the war economy logic, in liaison with our companies, the State's services, economic development stakeholders and the armed forces in the department).

In a context of a return to high-intensity conflict and attritional warfare, France is now speaking of industrial resilience and a war economy. Where does the adaptation of the Defence Industrial and Technological Base stand, and what expectations do you have of the industrial players present at Eurosatory?

To be precise, we are not in a "war economy" in the strict sense, but in a "war economy logic", which was in fact launched at Eurosatory in 2022 by the President of the Republic, the Commander-in-Chief.

France today has a strong Defence Industrial and Technological Base, one of the most effective in Europe, with nearly 220,000 jobs and around 26,000 companies. Since 2017, progress has been made to reduce our dependencies, reorganise our supply and logistics chains, increase production rates (Caesar guns, Rafale aircraft, drones, munitions, and so on) and simplify procedures in order to become more agile. We must continue along this path, by continuing to act to make access to defence markets easier for SMEs and to strengthen synergies locally between our companies and the Ministry of the Armed Forces. This is essential if we are to strengthen our industrial and technological sovereignty and respond more effectively to the needs expressed by our armed forces.

Cooperation with allies, but also with the Defence Industrial and Technological Base, is very visible at Eurosatory. On which capabilities or projects do you consider it essential to accelerate cooperation, and on which do you believe strict national autonomy must remain the rule?

To begin with, France has significant military sovereignty thanks to a strong defence industry rooted in our territories. We therefore have an ecosystem capable of producing, at a high technological level, almost all our defence systems: this is partly due to our decision, taken in the 1960s, to acquire nuclear deterrence, the development of which enabled us to invest massively in this industrial sector.

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That said, I believe that aiming for complete national autonomy would be illusory, especially since certain dependencies remain acceptable, notably vis-à-vis our allies, provided they are controlled and willingly accepted. In my view, the issue is not isolation, but reducing the most sensitive dependencies in light of the geostrategic context. And as we can see, in certain areas cooperation offers real added value, because research and development costs are high or because critical mass is decisive. I am thinking in particular of space, advanced digital technologies and artificial intelligence. In this respect, we have several structuring projects, particularly at European level, such as the IRIS2 constellation.

Conversely, in certain fields we must retain national production autonomy. Nuclear deterrence is the most emblematic example: it falls within the sovereignty of our Nation and remains the cornerstone of our defence policy. However, closer dialogue with our European partners should be considered, since deterrence has always had a European dimension.

Should the geopolitical situation prompt Europeans to rethink their defence? Why is now the time to accelerate European defence?

Yes, very clearly: the geopolitical situation requires Europeans to act concretely to guarantee the defence of the continent and remain masters of their destiny. More than ever, Europe's strategic autonomy must become a reality, in order to make Europe stronger and more independent. That is why we must continue to support the movement now underway towards a genuine European defence, and work to ensure that the convergence of Europeans' defence actions continues. Since 2017, France has been one of the main driving forces behind this and has pushed through major advances such as the creation of the European Defence Fund (2021), the adoption of the Strategic Compass (2022) and the drafting of the European Defence White Paper (2025).

This growing awareness, beyond a shared analysis of the threat landscape, is also reflected in practice. In the space of three years, European defence budgets have risen from around 200 billion to nearly 300 billion euros per year. These dynamic complements that of NATO, an alliance which remains a structuring framework for our collective defence and of which 23 of the European Union's 27 member states are also members.

Donald Trump's United States are distancing themselves from NATO. Should we prepare for an American disengagement? And if so, what should Europeans do?

We must remain cautious, because Donald Trump cultivates unpredictability. That said, we cannot ignore certain signals: under his presidency, a distancing from NATO has been evident, through his various interventions on burden-sharing. While the United States remains a pillar of the Alliance, doubts may nevertheless remain about its long-term commitment to the defence of the European continent, because of the American pivot towards Asia and the Indo-Pacific.

In reality, the question is not so much one of total disengagement as of uncertainty surrounding decisions and the reliability of our American ally. Europeans must draw the consequences: by becoming fully masters of their security and accelerating the construction of a genuine European defence. And I am convinced that we have all the cards in hand to achieve this, because we have considerable assets - industrial capabilities, 450 million inhabitants and a GDP of 17,000 billion euros - but this potential still has to be turned into real capabilities.

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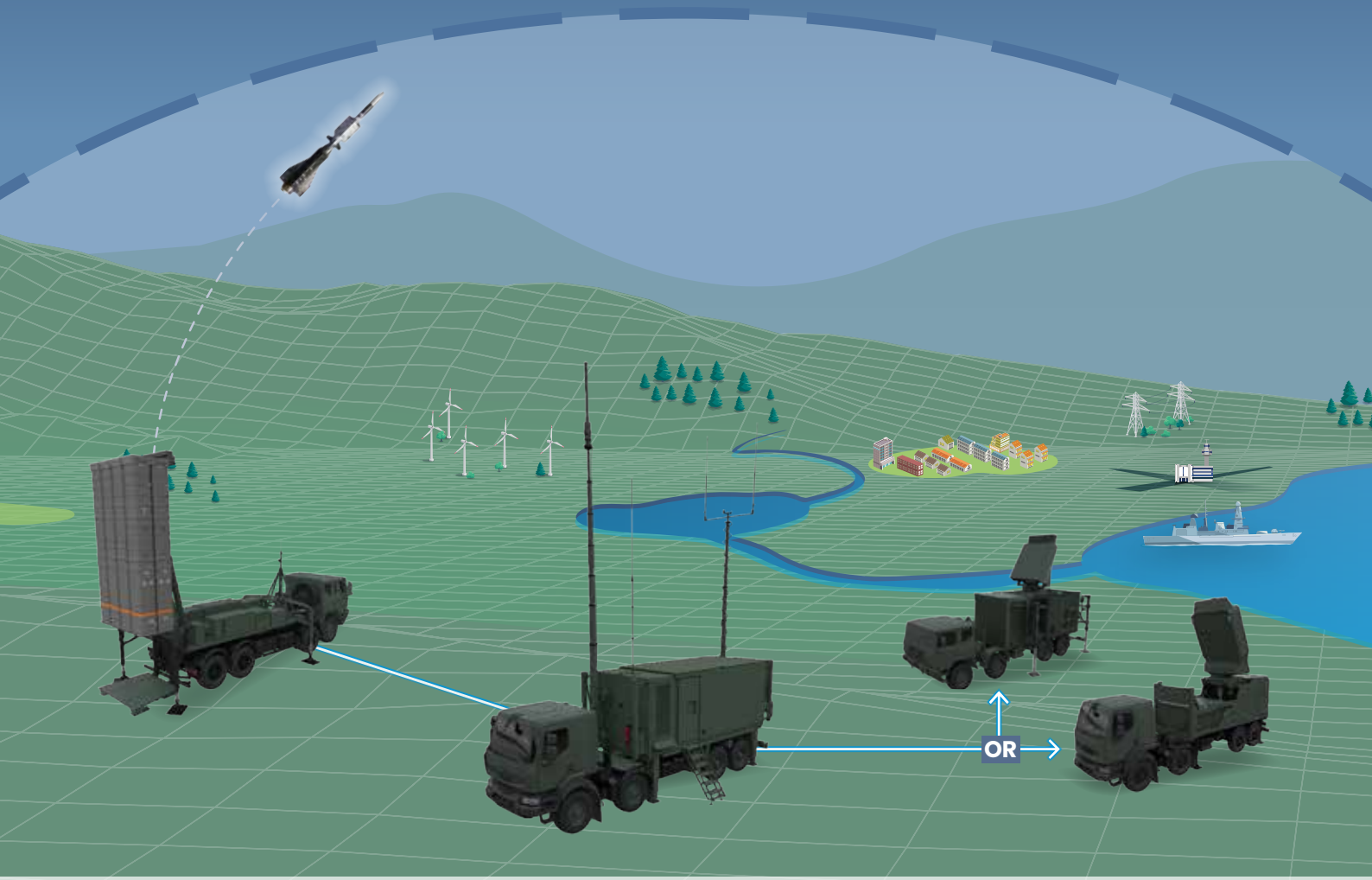

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This must involve greater coordination between states, joint investment and the strengthening of the European Defence Industrial and Technological Base (EDTIB). Reducing critical dependencies on the United States is also essential. Without calling the partnership with the United States into question, the aim is to gain autonomy, produce more in Europe and secure supply chains. This includes the development of European instruments such as the EDIP programme, which aims to encourage joint investment and joint procurement. In this context, France has a leading role to play in advancing European strategic autonomy.

Article 4 of the Military Programming Law (LPM) provides for 13.3 billion euros in "additional resources", including nearly 6 billion euros in off-budget resources (asset disposals, miscellaneous revenue, and so on), which the Senate has said are uncertain. Can you tell the French where this money will come from?

Let us be very clear: the 13.3 billion euros in additional resources are based neither on tax rises nor on cuts to other public policies. In all previous Military Programming Laws, these additional resources have always existed; they were simply not made transparent. And to go into a little more detail, nearly 6 billion euros come from already identified off-budget revenue, notably from the Armed Forces Health Service, property disposals by the Ministry of the Armed Forces, and internal efficiency gains. The rest consists of adjustments linked to budget management.

Do you fear that defence will once again become a budgetary adjustment variable after 2027, if the next government faces strong pressure on the deficit, unemployment or rising social spending? What concrete guarantees are you proposing to avoid that scenario?

To quote General de Gaulle, whose words are inscribed on the walls of the Defence Committee room in the National Assembly: "Defence is the State's primary reason for existence. It must not fail in this without destroying itself." In that sense, defence should never be an adjustment variable, even if it has been in the past before a recovery began in 2015: we have each seen the negative effects of this on our armed forces. Today, given the geostrategic context, it would be irresponsible to bring our rearmament effort to a sudden halt.

That said, budgetary constraints will remain, with inevitable trade-offs. The issue is therefore not whether to invest, but how to secure that effort over time without weakening other national priorities. All the while keeping in mind that by investing in our defence, we create wealth and jobs in our territories: every 1 euro invested generates between 1.27 and 1.68 euros in economic benefits within just a few years. Investing in our defence is therefore, in many respects, a winning bet.

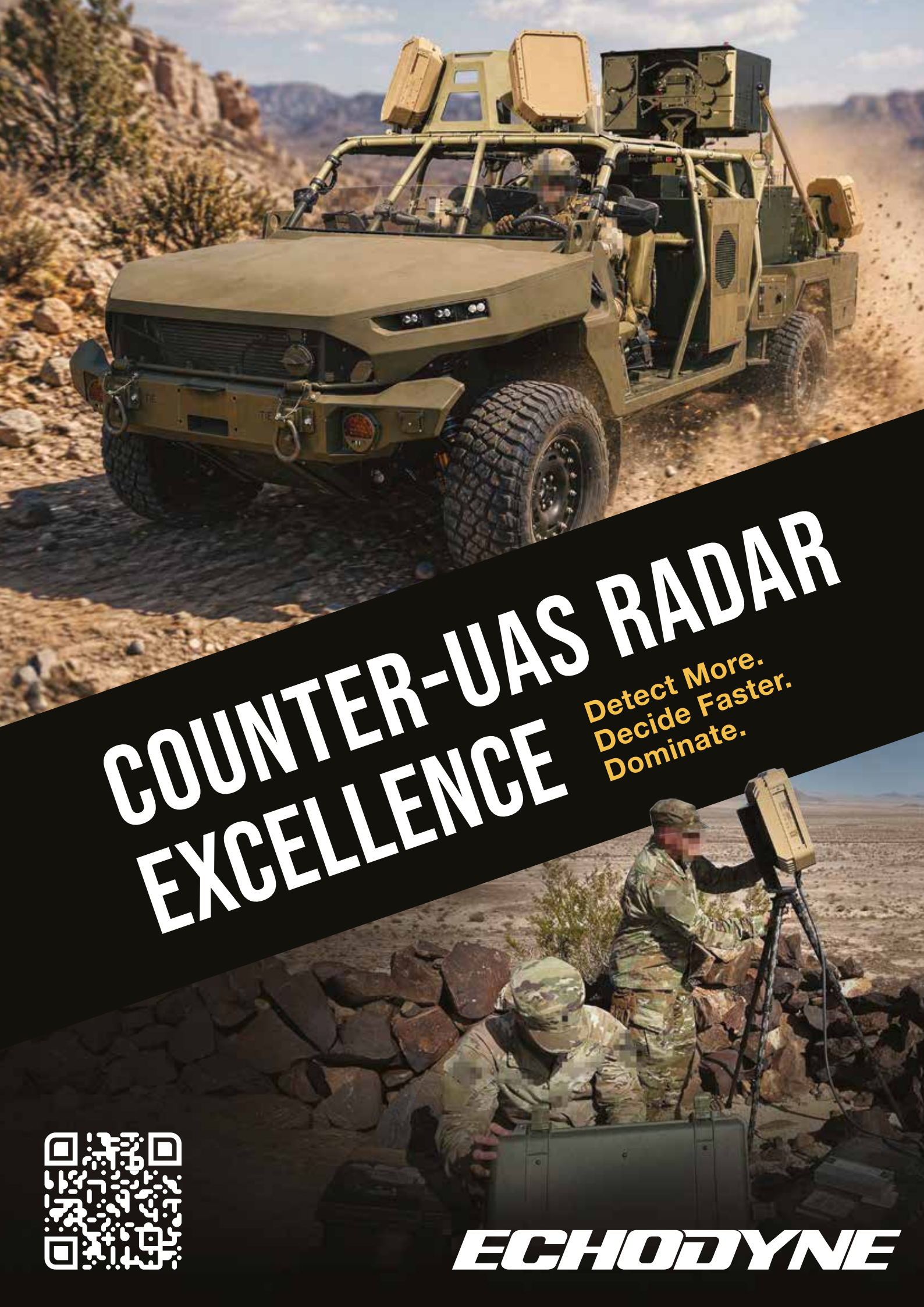
The Military Programming Law (LPM) is very national in its construction, while European tools are developing. In your view, can part of the funding problem of the Military Programming Law be solved at European level, or will France have to shoulder most of the effort on its own, even if that means making painful choices in other public policies?

The Military Programming Law, both in the priorities it sets and in its financing, remains profoundly national, because it concerns France's sovereignty and the protection of its vital interests. That said, this does not rule out a European dynamic - quite the contrary! The 2024-2030 Military Programming Law already incorporates many cooperative projects. In the most costly and complex areas - space, breakthrough innovation, critical capabilities such as rare earths - European cooperation is both relevant and necessary. Joint procurement, the convergence of requirements and programmes developed together make it possible to pool costs, accelerate development and strengthen interoperability. Beyond that, the challenge is to bring robust industrial players into being, in order to strengthen our competitiveness and reduce our dependencies, because in the short term only a strong EDTIB will make it possible to preserve our know-how and bring about European champions.

Why is it important to you to go to Eurosatory? What will your programme and that of the committee be there?

For the committee, it is a fine opportunity to meet companies from our territories, to speak directly with their leaders about the sector's momentum and any difficulties they may face in sustaining and developing their activities, which both strengthen our industrial sovereignty and respond to the needs expressed by our armed forces.

But beyond companies, we can also meet clusters, economic development networks and representatives of the Directorate General of Armament: essential links in supporting the war economy logic. ●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DRONE TARGETING FOR LEONARDO VULCANO 120 MBT INDIRECT FIRE CAPABILITY

HALL 6 STAND C177

BY VALERIO DEL GRANDE

One year ago, in July, Leonardo unveiled its privately-financed Vulcano 120 programme, which aimed at providing an indirect fire capability for main battle tanks (MBTs). The programme is still in the early development phase and a first product is foreseen in three years' time. The company is focused on the project in its entirety since, particularly when engaging targets beyond line-of-sight, target acquisition and projectile guidance are among the most challenging issues.

The first iteration of the Vulcano 120 will feature semi-automatic laser (SAL) guidance, which means a reflected laser beam is needed to guide it on the target, therefore a designator is needed. An MBT's indirect fire capability is not something aimed at replacing conventional indirect fire, which is artillery, but rather at giving an armoured formation the capacity to take out BLOS targets when artillery is not available, or when the sensor-to-shooter loop might take too much time to take out a time-sensitive target. Therefore, not only does the MBT need the appropriate round - the Vulcano 120 in this case - it also needs the appropriate targeting system, which is provided by a drone.
This must have sufficient flight endurance, a payload able to carry a miniaturised designator with a range of several km and, of course, an optronic suite capable of providing target grids to the MBT formation.

The idea is to deploy the drone, which detects the target, provides imagery to positively identify it, as well as target grids, and remains out of the enemy danger area, between 2 and 4 km. Leonardo is considering targets at ranges between 10 and 30 km which, as the average velocity of the Vulcano 120 is between 500-600 m/s, means a flight time of around 20-60 seconds on a flat trajectory. However, to overcome barrel elevation limits, tank guns seldom go beyond +20°, so Leonardo engineers are working on 'uphill' trajectories, exploiting projectile manoeuvrability from the beginning of the flight, say 2-3 km after it left the muzzle, which allows it to achieve a higher apogee, a key factor when overcoming vertical obstacles. Trajectory shaping is also key when a target is close to a vertical obstacle, when a higher angle is needed to hit it.

All this might increase flight time. Leonardo considers that the drone will start illuminating the target around 10 seconds before impact, a time based on considerations about the uncertainty of time of impact, energy consumption, cooling and becoming easily detectable.

Leonardo has already tested drone designation with its Vulcano 155 and has defined system requirements without linking it to any specific drone or designator. It is also considering the Vulcano 120 for line-of-sight engagements, should this type of round be the last left on board an MBT. Since the round is an HE munition, this option is aimed at disabling enemy tanks' sighting capability rather than achieving a full kill. Ranges up to 10 km are under consideration.

At Eurosatory Leonardo is exhibiting a model of the Vulcano 120 projectile and a drone mock-up based on requirements that emerged from ongoing studies.

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CUMMINS BRINGS QUIET POWER TO THE EUROSATORY FLOOR

JOSEPH ROUKOZ

Cummins is using Eurosatory to underline a simple message: modern defence mobility depends on reliable, efficient and adaptable power. At the heart of its presence at the show, the company is presenting solutions designed to support demanding military platforms in environments where performance and durability matter most.

The American power specialist is well known for its engines, and at Eurosatory it is placing that expertise in a defence context. For armed forces and vehicle integrators, the appeal lies in systems that combine robustness, ease of integration and the ability to deliver consistent output under harsh operating conditions. In a market where mobility, availability and logistics all weigh heavily, that can be a decisive advantage.

Cummins' offering is also part of a broader industry shift. Defence manufacturers are increasingly looking for propulsion and power solutions that can support heavier loads, advanced electronics and future upgrades without compromising reliability. That need is particularly relevant for armoured vehicles, tactical support vehicles and other platforms expected to operate across long distances and difficult terrain. Cummins is positioning itself as a partner able to meet those requirements while helping customers balance performance and lifecycle efficiency. ●

HK433: ONE CALIBER, TWO SOULS

BY JEAN-PIERRE HUSSON

The ultimate fusion of the G36 and HK416, the Modular Assault Rifle System, now called the HK433 (MARS), is positioned as a modular 5.56×45 NATO platform intended for military and law enforcement users. Combining disparate design elements into a single system, with an emphasis on modularity, reliability and cross-platform compatibility, the HK433 is designed to streamline logistics, maintenance and training through shared components and a consistent manual of arms across variants. The rifle features an indirect gas-operated system with a rotating bolt head and a two-stage, tool-free adjustable gas system for suppressor use. A non-reciprocating charging handle can be swapped from left to right without tools, while fully ambidextrous controls support user adaptability. Modularity extends to the furniture and interface options.

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The HK433 uses an M-LOK handguard with a continuous NATO STANAG 4694 top rail and supports a range of barrel lengths from 7 to 16.5 inches (177.8 to 419mm). The folding and telescopic stock can be adjusted for length of pull and cheek height, and can be folded without disabling weapon operation. The new version KH433PDW, available with 7- and 9-inch barrels (177.8mm and 228.6mm), is designed for close-quarters applications, including urban operations and vehicle deployment. Despite its reduced size and weight (approximately 3 kg) this compact variant retains the same operating system, controls and modularity as the full-length rifle. This allows users to maintain consistency across platforms while adapting to mission-specific requirements. The PDW variant confirms Heckler & Koch's approach to the design of modular weapon systems. ●

HALL 6 STAND J311

SECURING DEFENCE IN AN AGE OF HYBRID THREATS

BY JULIEN CHABROUT

In an era marked by the hybridisation of threats, protecting defence capabilities requires a comprehensive and integrated approach. Major General Nicolas Leverrier, Director of the Protection of Defence Installations, Assets and Activities (DPID) and Deputy High Official for Defence and Security (HFCDS), explains to the Eurosatory Show Daily why safeguarding national defence now depends on the resilience of an entire interconnected ecosystem.

Could you introduce the Directorate for the Protection of Defence Installations, Assets and Activities (DPID)?

The DPID is a directorate placed under the direct authority of the Minister for the Armed Forces and Veterans. Its primary mission is to ensure that defence installations, assets and activities are protected against all forms of threat, whether physical or cyber. As such, the DPID develops, leads and coordinates ministerial policy across its areas of responsibility, including physical security, protection of classified information and cybersecurity. This is a very broad remit that extends far beyond purely military sites. Its work covers not only entities directly under the Ministry of the Armed Forces, but also public bodies under its supervision, a significant portion of the defence industrial and technological base (DITB), and digital security.

This reality reflects a fundamental evolution in modern conflict: national defence capabilities now depend on complex interdependencies involving public actors, industry, physical infrastructure, digital networks and data flows.

The DPID also serves as the support body for the Ministry's High Official for Defence and Security. In this role, it works closely with its counterparts across other ministries, as well as with the General Secretariat for Defence and National Security (SGDSN).

The DPID is therefore heavily involved in interministerial work. How does this take shape in practice?

The services of the High Officials for Defence and Security are key interlocutors-sometimes privileged ones-of the SGDSN on many issues. You may have followed Exercise ORION, led by the Armed Forces Staff, the third phase of which aimed to strengthen coordination between ministries in planning support for a major military engagement. These services were closely involved.

More broadly, resilience has gained particular importance in recent years with the establishment of a national strategy. This is one of the topics we discuss frequently and concretely at interministerial level. In the digital domain, we also maintain regular exchanges with the National Cybersecurity Agency of France (ANSSI).

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You are also responsible for digital security within the Ministry of the Armed Forces. Could you explain this role?

High Officials for Defence and Security are responsible for overseeing information systems security policy. It was therefore logical for the DPID to be entrusted with responsibilities in this field and the Ministry's Chief Information Security Officer reports to me.

This integration is not merely regulatory compliance. It reflects the growing interdependence between physical infrastructure and digital networks and the need for a comprehensive approach to defence and security. To address the hybrid threats increasingly targeting these ecosystems, a global protection strategy is essential.

Together with the Chief Information Security Officer and associated team, we steer the Ministry's work on digital security for both state military activities and the defence industry, in close coordination with relevant entities and interministerial bodies.

You mentioned hybrid threats. In today's strategic context, how does the DPID address new forms of conflict? Which threats require particular attention?

Recent analyses in the National Strategic Review highlight the most degraded security environment since the end of the Cold War. This includes the return of power politics, the war in Ukraine, rising regional tensions, the militarisation of strategic spaces and intensified information, cyber and technological confrontations.

In this context, the very notion of vulnerability is changing profoundly. The weakest link is no longer necessarily the most sensitive or visible installation; it may lie within a contractor's connected system, a supply chain, or even an organisational or human weakness.

Addressing this requires a comprehensive and continuous approach combining physical protection, digital security and the safeguarding of classified information, alongside resilience, business continuity and crisis management capabilities.

This is precisely the role entrusted to the DPID: to ensure overall coherence in a threat environment characterised by hybridisation.

How is the protection policy for defence sites and associated companies implemented in practice?

It involves both daily monitoring and long-term strategic work. We coordinate inspections and analyse their results, while also collecting and reviewing security incidents to draw lessons learned.

These analyses, shared with intelligence services, allow us to adjust protection policies and identify necessary protective measures. They also support the raising of awareness across the defence community, including security officers, digital specialists and critical infrastructure operators.

What are the DPID's links with defence companies?

As highlighted in the 2025 National Strategic Review, the defence industry plays a crucial role in national strategy. Protecting its assets and activities is therefore central to the Ministry's concerns and forms a core part of the DPID's work.

This ecosystem ranges from major prime contractors to SMEs. Our scope includes all companies contributing to national defence capabilities, participating in critical supply chains, or handling sensitive information.

The DPID helps define and coordinate ministerial protection requirements and ensures that industry can maintain operations during disruptions. This work is carried out in close coordination with the Directorate General of Armaments, the Defence Industry Directorate and the Defence Intelligence and Security Directorate.

The key principle is shared responsibility: the security of defence capabilities depends on the entire chain, from state actors to industrial partners.

You also mentioned business continuity and the national resilience strategy. Could you elaborate?

From its inception, the DPID has been responsible for ministerial business continuity policy. This responsibility has grown in importance in light of recent crises, including the pandemic and the rise in cyberattacks, which have highlighted the systemic nature of vulnerabilities.

The National Resilience Strategy, adopted in 2022 under the authority of the Prime Minister, marked a significant milestone. It recognises that modern crises are multidimensional, cumulative and capable of producing long-lasting effects on national capabilities.

Resilience is therefore at the heart of the DPID's interministerial work.

What does Eurosatory represent for you? Why is it important to attend such exhibitions?

Eurosatory is a key global showcase for defence and security. It provides an opportunity to discover innovations, technological breakthroughs and forward-looking visions.

To ensure the long-term protection of defence assets and activities, we must anticipate future needs today. This forward-looking approach relies in part on exchanges with industry at events such as Eurosatory. ●

MENATEK DEFENSE TECHNOLOGIES AIMS AT EXPANDING ITS OEM CLIENT BASE WITH NEW PRODUCTS

BY VALERIO DEL GRANDE

Celebrating its 30th anniversary in 2025, Menatek Defense Technologies has evolved from a supplier of spare parts for the Turkish Land Forces into an established partner for NATO customers and leading OEMs.

The company's portfolio includes torsion bars, running gear components, passive add-on armour, periscopes, weather sensors, and medium-calibre weapon barrels. In recent years, Menatek has also expanded into the aviation sector while continuing to develop solutions for military platforms of both Western and Eastern origins.

One of the company's key innovations is Naz Bearings, a proprietary bearing solution featuring a dual-lubrication mechanism that significantly extends service life. Menatek sees strong growth potential in this market and aims to become a one-stop shop for critical running gear components.

To support its growth strategy, the company is investing in additional production capacity, new machinery, and partnerships with OEMs. With proven products already in service in multiple countries, Menatek is looking to further strengthen its presence in Europe and international markets. ●

RED CAT SHOWCASES BLACK WIDOW AND MULTI-DOMAIN CAPABILITIES AT EUROSATORY 2026

BY JOSEPH ROUKOZ

HALL 5A STAND D338

At Eurosatory 2026 in Paris, Red Cat will present its vision for multi-domain operations, highlighting the Black Widow™ small unmanned aircraft system (sUAS) alongside the Blue Ops Variant 7 uncrewed surface vessel (USV). Together, these systems reflect the company's "Family of Systems" approach, which connects purpose-built platforms through a common command-and-control ecosystem to deliver real-time intelligence, enhanced situational awareness, and operational flexibility across modern coalition environments.

As European and allied forces continue to prioritise sovereignty, interoperability, and rapid deployment, Red Cat's solutions are designed to integrate seamlessly into existing and future force structures.

At the core of Red Cat's aerial portfolio is Black Widow™, a next-generation sUAS engineered to provide secure, real-time intelligence for military and government operators. Designed for contested and electronic warfare environments, Black Widow enables small units to rapidly deploy a rucksack-portable system that delivers immediate situational awareness beyond line of sight. This supports mission success at the tactical edge.

The platform features advanced electro-optical and thermal imaging capabilities optimised for both day and night operations. Its sensor suite enables reliable target detection, identification, and tracking in degraded visual environments. These capabilities are increasingly critical in today's European security landscape.

With secure communications and hardened systems designed to operate in the presence of electronic warfare, Black Widow supports resilient operations across a range of mission profiles. Its modular, open architecture allows integration with AI and third-party applications, enabling forces to adapt capabilities over time.

As part of the US Army's Short-Range Reconnaissance (SRR) Program of Record, Black Widow represents a combat-proven, American-made solution that is well positioned to support allied and partner nation requirements.

Complementing its aerial systems, Red Cat will also highlight Variant 7, an uncrewed surface vessel that reflects the company's expansion into maritime operations with its Blue Ops division. Variant 7 is designed as a flexible, mission-adaptable platform capable of supporting a range of payloads, including sensor packages and other modular systems depending on operational requirements. The platform emphasizes endurance, manoeuvrability, and low observability, enabling it to operate effectively in contested and littoral environments.

Its value lies in extending situational awareness and operational reach beyond the shoreline. By operating in parallel with aerial systems, Variant 7 contributes to a broader, distributed sensing network that enhances visibility across domains.

The platform is being developed with interoperability in mind, supporting remote, semi-autonomous, and increasingly autonomous modes of operation. This aligns with growing demand across NATO and partner nations for scalable, uncrewed maritime capabilities that can integrate into existing force structures.

Central to Red Cat's offering is its "Family of Systems" concept. This is an integrated ecosystem in which multiple platforms operate through a shared command-and-control architecture. This approach enables operators to manage diverse assets across domains through a unified interface, supporting coordinated, real-time decision-making. For European and allied forces operating in joint environments, this level of interoperability is critical.

In practice, systems like Black Widow provide immediate ISR and situational awareness, while platforms such as Variant 7 extend sensing and operational presence into maritime environments. Together, they contribute to a broader operational network that enhances responsiveness, scalability, and mission effectiveness. This shift from standalone platforms to integrated ecosystems mirrors the evolving requirements of modern defense forces, where speed, adaptability, and information dominance are decisive advantages.

As Europe continues to adapt to a more complex and dynamic security environment, demand is increasing for scalable, rapidly deployable, and sovereign-ready technologies. Red Cat's focus on trusted, American-made systems, combined with an open and interoperable architecture, positions the company as a strong partner for allied nations seeking to enhance their autonomous capabilities while maintaining operational flexibility. By combining advanced aerial ISR with a growing multi-domain ecosystem that includes maritime platforms like Variant 7, Red Cat is supporting a future where integrated, intelligent systems enable forces to operate more effectively across the full spectrum of missions.

VECTOR AND SKYLAR: NEW STABILISED PAN-AND-TILT OPTRONICS FROM OIP SENSOR SYSTEMS

BY VALERIO DEL GRANDE

HALL 6 STAND E139

OIP Sensor Systems is unveiling two new lines of pan-and tilt systems at Eurosatory. Vector is a lightweight sight family for armoured vehicle gunners and commanders; two models are available, one fully stabilised, and both can be fitted with the company's Eoptris electro-optical imaging and ranging systems.

The Vector is the stabilised version and has a tilt range of -40°/+80°, line-of-sight stabilisation less or equal to 100 µrad when driving on automotive proving ground tracks. Angular velocity range is 0.01-120 °/s, maximum acceleration being 120 °/s2. Mass is under 35 kg and nominal power consumption under 50 W. The Vector Tilt is the non-stabilised version with limited tilt movement between -20° and +60°; all data are the same except for position accuracy, under 3 µrad.

The Skylar is a high-precision stabilised long-range observation platform, the XLR version ensuring detection ranges of 20 km at night and 18 km in daytime. With full azimuth movement, its elevation range is -20°/+60°, stabilisation accuracy being less than 0.015 mrad, which becomes 0.030 mrad when travelling off road at 20 km/h. The sensor suite includes a 1280x720 pixel cooled MWIR thermal imager, an ultra-HD CMOS camera operating in the 400-1000 nm waveband, and a Class 1 laser rangefinder with a 9 km range. It can host a third-party payload, such as a laser illuminator and/or designator, a radar, or a SWIR optronic. With a mass under 85 kg and a size of 610x460x700 mm, it can be easily fitted on land and naval platforms. Its open architecture allows for C2 network integration.

Vector and Skylar add a new range of products to the OIP portfolio, complementing the company's existing range of sensor packages and sights.

METRAVIB DEFENCE, MOVING ACOUSTIC DETECTION FROM DIRECT FIRE TO C-UAS

BY VALERIO DEL GRANDE

HALL 5A STAND E74

Detecting small arms fire was a high priority issue in the early 1990s when snipers infested Bosnia-Herzegovina and the main street in Sarajevo became known as 'Sniper Alley'. This led Metravib Defence to start working on acoustic shot detection. Today it is probably the only company fielding a system, the PILAR V, capable of detecting direct fire gunshots from weapons of 5.56 to 120mm calibre.

Today, however, a new major threat is generated by swarms of attack and ISR drones. At Eurosatory Metravib Defence unveils its PAAD (Product Acoustic Anti-Drone) capable of detecting slow speed and small drones that can evade technologies such as radar, EO/IR and RF. Based on AI algorithms, the PAAD can work as a stand-alone sensor or can operate unattended for multiple use case scenarios, as it covers 360°. It can also be integrated into a wider multi-sensor C-UAS solution. Fully passive, it ensures an over 90% probability of detection against rotary-wing type FPVs. Light and small (0.7 kg and 100x120x120 mm), its typical power consumption is 5 W. Depending on the drone, detection range varies between 50 and 250 m, response time being under 1 second. A single sensor provides azimuth and elevation and, if used in conjunction with an RCWS, it can slew the atation towards the target, allowing optronics to refine aiming. Metravib Defence will add range estimation and drone identification capabilities to further enhance the system.

Another new system shown at Eurosatory is the PITON, designed for democratising acoustic gunshot detection and intended for VIP, law enforcement and force protection. Another low SWaP system (0.7 kg, 120x120x60 mm), it provides threat direction with a ±7.5° accuracy covering 360°, range accuracy being 20%. In less than 2 seconds it will also provide the calibre class (eg over or under 7.62 mm) within the 5.56-14.5 mm envelope.

Metravib Defence continues adapting existing products to new threats. The PILAR V, for example, may well add drone detection to its capabilities, and the company is working on data fusion, firmly believing, among other things, in acoustic-optronic coupling. ●

POWER, PARTNERSHIP AND POLICY: INSIDE THE EXPANDING REACH OF THE USA SECURITY AND DEFENSE PAVILION

BY JOSEPH ROUKOZ

The USA Security and Defense Pavilion is set to reaffirm its status as one of the most influential hubs on the international defence exhibition circuit, offering a compelling showcase of American technological leadership, industrial depth, and strategic cooperation.

Organised by the Association of the United States Army (AUSA), the Pavilion returns this year in its largest format since AUSA assumed responsibility more than 25 years ago. Spanning over 3,200 square metres and hosting 119 exhibitors, the expansion reflects both increasing global demand for US defence capabilities and Washington's sustained commitment to international security partnerships.

The exhibition floor brings together a diverse cross-section of the American defence industrial base, from agile SMEs to prime contractors. Attendees can explore a wide spectrum of next-generation technologies, mission-ready platforms, and integrated systems designed to address evolving operational requirements across multiple domains.

Among the companies industry players exhibiting are AeroVironment, AM General, Bell, General Dynamics Ordnance and Tactical Systems, L3Harris, Leonardo DRS, Northrop Grumman, Oshkosh Defense, RTX, Shield AI, and Textron Systems. Collectively, they provide a comprehensive snapshot of US innovation, from autonomous systems and precision munitions to advanced mobility and battlefield networking solutions.

Extending beyond the Pavilion itself, outdoor displays by the US Army offer an operational dimension to the exhibition, enabling visitors to engage directly with current capabilities and deployed technologies. This integration of industrial and military showcases reinforces the practical relevance of the systems on display.

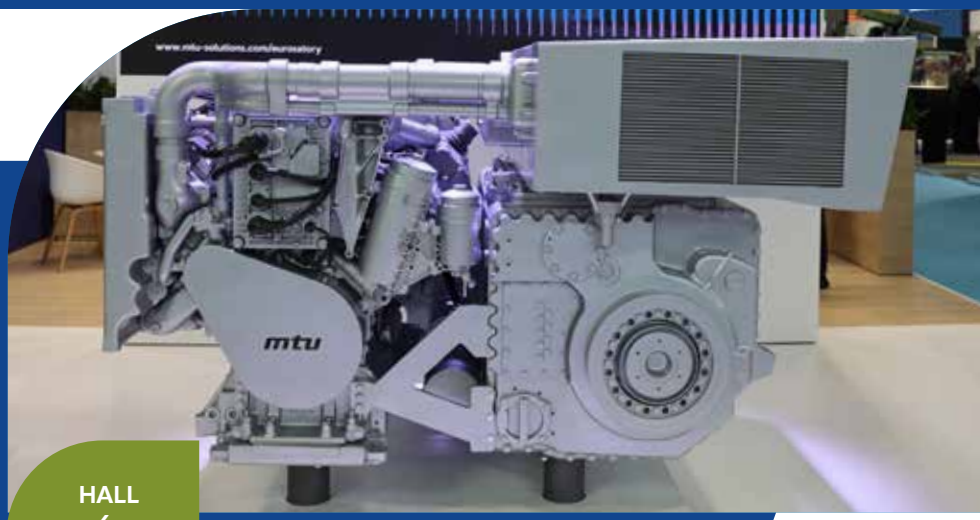
At the heart of the Pavilion, the Speakers Corner once again serves as a focal point for high-level dialogue. The programme brings together senior officials from the US Department of War, Department of State, Department of Commerce, and leading industry stakeholders to address the most pressing issues shaping the defence landscape.

Discussions will cover a wide array of strategic themes, including transatlantic industrial cooperation, export controls and technology transfer, foreign military sales, co-production frameworks, interoperability challenges, and the urgent need to accelerate acquisition processes while strengthening industrial capacity. Lessons drawn from the war in Ukraine are also expected to feature prominently, particularly in relation to resilience, supply chains, and rapid innovation cycles.

High-profile speakers are expected to include Charles Kushner, US Ambassador to France and Monaco; Brent Ingraham, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics, and Technology; Patrick Mason, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Defense Exports and Cooperation; and Michael Vacarro, Acting Principal Deputy Secretary of State.

By combining cutting-edge technology displays with strategic policy discussions, the USA Security and Defense Pavilion continues to position itself as more than an exhibition space: it is a platform where innovation meets diplomacy and where industrial capability aligns with geopolitical priorities.

For defence professionals, policymakers, and industry leaders alike, the Pavilion offers a unique opportunity to engage directly with the technologies and partnerships shaping the future of global security. ●



MGCS MOVES CLOSER TO A HYBRID FUTURE

BY JULES ROUKOZ

HALL 6 STAND J335

Visitors to Eurosatory will note that Europe's next heavy armour programme has taken an important step forward. The propulsion system for the Main Ground Combat System, or MGCS, has now been entrusted to industrial partners including Rolls-Royce Power Systems, who are developing the next generation of mobility for this Franco-German project, designed to succeed the Leopard 2 and Leclerc main battle tanks.

Rather than a simple replacement for existing platforms, MGCS is being shaped as a major technological leap. Built around hybrid propulsion, digital integration and enhanced battlefield endurance, the programme reflects Europe's ambition to field a combat system suited to the demands of future high-intensity warfare. At the centre of this effort is a parallel-hybrid drive concept for heavy tracked vehicles, combining mechanical performance with greater energy efficiency and tactical flexibility.

At the heart of the new MGCS powerpack is a 10-cylinder mtu 10V 199 diesel engine, delivering around 1,100 kW of mechanical power. This engine provides the backbone of the hybrid system's overall output exceeding 1,400 kW (around 1,877 hp). Derived from the renowned mtu Series 199 family, it seamlessly combines advanced electronic management with proven battlefield reliability.

The new powerpack brings together this 10-cylinder diesel engine and electrified mobility functions to deliver more than 1,400 kW, or around 1,877 hp. Based on a proven military engine family already in service worldwide, the system is designed for harsh operational conditions and continued reliability, even when fuel quality is less than ideal. That makes it particularly well suited to extended operations beyond established supply lines.

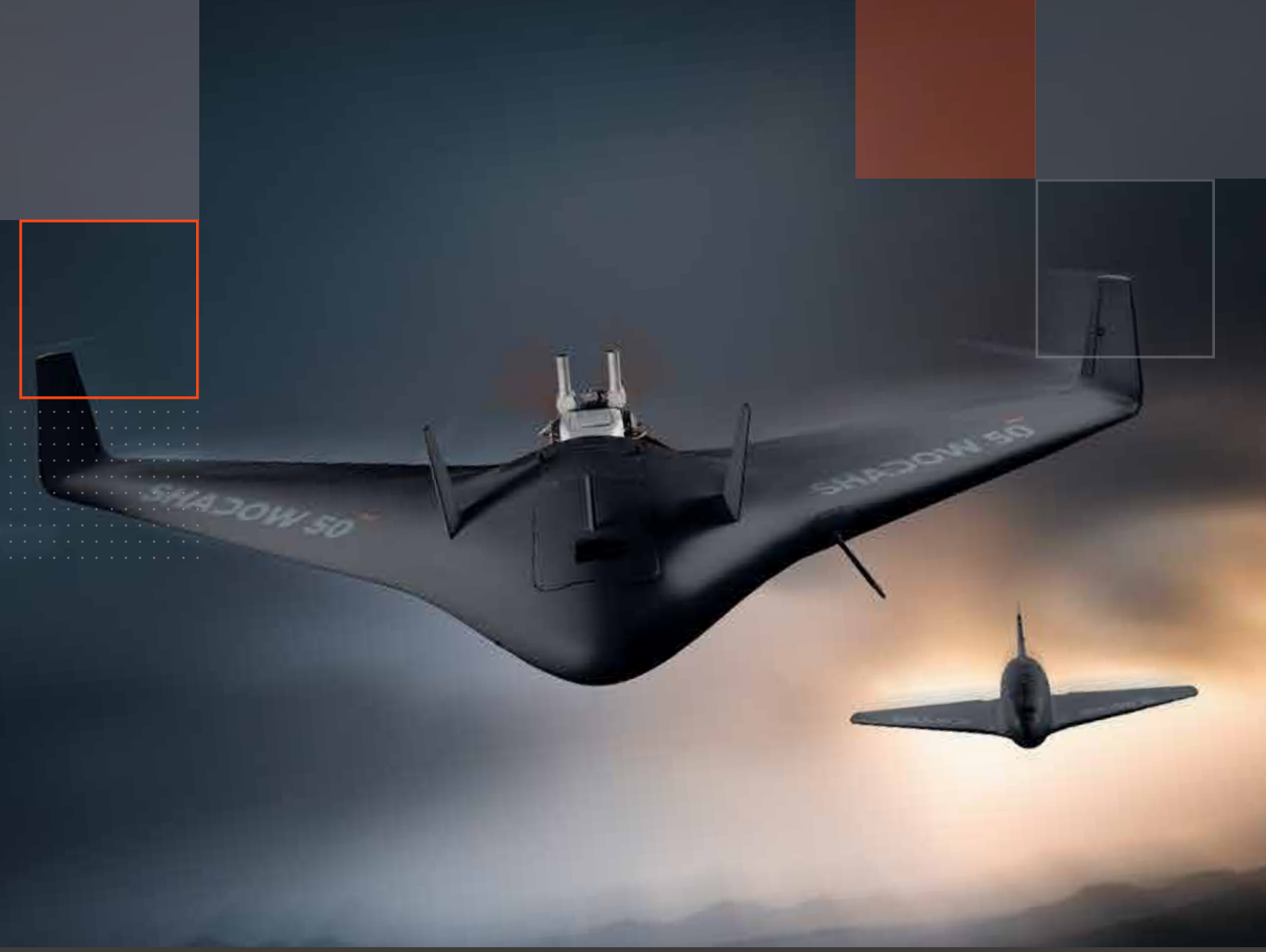
Engineers have also focused on power density, thermal efficiency and support for emerging onboard systems. A redesigned cooling architecture creates the reserves needed to supply next-generation mission equipment, active protection systems and networked sensors without reducing propulsion performance. In effect, the vehicle will be able to generate and manage more electrical power for a battlefield that is becoming increasingly digital.

The transmission side of the project is equally ambitious. The electrified powershift and steering system introduces drive-by-wire, braking-by-wire and steering-by-wire functions, improving precision and manoeuvrability even under heavy load. Regenerative braking and energy recovery further enhance efficiency by feeding stored power back into the vehicle's electrical network.

For crews, this translates into smoother handling, quieter manoeuvres and easier operation. Silent watch capability is another important advantage, allowing the vehicle to remain ready for action while reducing its acoustic and thermal signature. In modern combat, where concealment is often as important as firepower, that kind of improvement can be decisive.

The programme also reflects a strong industrial strategy. The use of mature military technology, combined with the manufacturing footprint and experience of companies such as Rolls-Royce, is intended to support production scalability, supply-chain resilience and long-term availability. Prototype testing is expected before the end of the decade, with series production planned for the early 2030s.

More broadly, MGCS is becoming more than just a tank programme. It is being developed as a networked combat system, integrating advanced sensors, protection concepts and hybrid mobility into a single architecture. By combining strength, efficiency and digital sophistication, it aims to redefine the way European armies move, fight and survive on tomorrow's battlefield. ●



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HALL 6 STAND J335

FENRIS 6X6 ILLUSTRATES ARQUUS' FULL INTEGRATION INTO JOHN COCKERILL GROUP

BY VALERIO DEL GRANDE

For the first time John Cockerill appears at Eurosatory integrating two industrial entities whose acquisition was finalised shortly after the 2024 Paris exhibition. On the opening day of the show, the Belgian group unveiled the Fenris, a new 6x6 AFV which integrates elements of all the components of the company: John Cockerill, Arquus and Hornet.

Following the acquisition of Arquus, several couplings between chassis and turrets were effected, but no platform was available to carry the Cockerill 3105. In February 2025 the idea of developing a purpose-made platform was launched, work starting in July that same year and assembly of the Fenris prototype achieved 10 months later, in May, just in time for Eurosatory.

Developing complete vehicles was the obvious intent of John Cockerill Defense when it aimed at acquiring Arquus, the French concern then part of the Volvo group. The move now allows now Belgian group to become a one-stop-shop for AFV customers, the Fenris 6x6 being the first example. It combines a chassis by Arquus, a 105 mm turret by John Cockerill Defense and a C-UAS RCWS by Hornet: all three brands in a single solution.

The mobility platform is a fully proprietary 6x6 chassis developed specifically by Arquus using components designed as part of the French Jaguar 6x6 reconnaissance vehicle, itself a part of the Scorpion programme. The rear-mounted powerpack includes a 500 hp engine coupled to an automatic transmission which ensures a power-to-mass ratio of over 19hp/t for the 26 tonnes vehicle. The driveline allows for operations in 6x4 and 6x6 mode, the former used on paved roads and resulting in reduced fuel consumption as well as reduced acoustic and thermal signatures, according to the company. The chassis features an active suspension that allows the driver to control the vehicle's ground clearance as well as its pitch; although no performance parameters were provided, this will be an advantage when overcoming vertical obstacles and will allow the vehicle to better hide behind natural features. The Fenris can be equipped with either 14.00 R20 or 16.00 R20 tyres and is fitted with a centralised tyre inflation system.

The driver is located in the front central part of hull, commander and gunner being accommodated in the Cockerill 3105 turret. Built of welded ballistic aluminium, it features a high-pressure 105 mm gun, for which the elevation arc is -10°/+42° - greater than that of most large-calibre guns, even though the geometry of the Fenris, with its low chassis, limits elevation to +36°. This is enough, however, to attain targets at a 10-11 km range, allowing targets to be engaged in elevated positions in direct fire mode, and also for indirect fire engagements at long range, providing target data are fed into the fire control system (FCS), which natively integrates AI algorithms for target acquisition and engagement, from an external source. The autoloader hosts 12 105 mm rounds, 24 more being embarked in the chassis.

To deal with the drone threat, the Fenris turret is fitted with a Hornet C-UAS RCWS, featuring an FN MAG 58 7.62 mm machine gun.

Protection levels is STANAG 4569 Level 4.

The Fenris is the result of coupling two well-proven solutions, the chassis derived from that of an in-service vehicle and the turret, now combat proven as it is being used in Ukraine. This allowed the development time to be reduced and will also help in achieving abbreviated delivery times. "If we receive an order today, we are able to deliver the first vehicles within 16 months," said Jean Luc Maurange, John Cockerill Group CEO at the end of the unveiling ceremony.

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ROBOT WARS: MARATHON TARGETS SUPPORTS LIVE FIRE EXERCISE

BY GILES EBBUTT

HALL 5A STAND CD251

Marathon Targets, a specialist in autonomous robot targets (ART), recently completed a major support effort on the US-led Exercise African Lion 2026 (AL26). This is US Africa Command's largest annual joint exercise, designed to strengthen interoperability among US forces, NATO Allies, and African partner nations. Hosted in Ghana, Morocco, Senegal and Tunisia in May, AL26 involved over 5,600 personnel from more than 40 nations.

Speaking to the Show Daily in a pre-show interview Nate Whelan, Marathon's Vice President for Europe, said the company had supported the US Army's 173rd Mobile Brigade Combat Team (Airborne) live fire exercises in Morocco with both T50 dismounted infantry and T100 vehicle ARTs. Marathon is highlighting the targets' capabilities at Eurosatory.

The AI-driven ARTs can drive autonomously across a range. They have enough awareness of their surroundings and can communicate well enough with each other to synthesise a convincing and challenging tactical environment, according to the company. They use precision autonomous navigation and collision avoidance technology.

The T50 moves on a four-wheeled chassis driven by an electric motor and will stop and fall when hit. The T100 vehicle targets, which can be visually modified to emulate whatever platform is required, can travel at up to 50 km/h and will stop when hit. All the targets can have a thermal signature. For AL26 the two T100s deployed had an SUV and a pickup "shell".

Whelan said that there were "multiple different live fire serials using the ARTs" during the exercise, with 10-12 engagements per day. He noted that a major focus of the 173rd's live fire training package was the use of uncrewed ground and aerial vehicles (UGV/UAV), including kinetic attack first person view (FPV) UAVs. He said that the BCT deployed its full range of robotic and autonomous UGVs using live fire against the ARTs "in what was essentially a robot versus robot scenario". He suggested that the only way to achieve realistic live-fire training for armed UGVs is against other robots.

The T100s were particularly used for FPV operator training, with a small C4 explosive charge carried by the UAV detonated when about a metre from the target to provide the kinetic effect, rather than a full shaped charge. Whelan observed that the T100, moving autonomously, provided a realistic and demanding target for FPV operators to engage.

Marathon's ARTs are in use on five continents, Whelan said, usually provided on a training-as-a-service basis. They are in use in a number of countries in Europe, including the Netherlands and Poland, and Whelan said that "other deals are close to being finalised." ●

SEEING THE HEAT: SENOP'S OSKAR GIVES THE M72 A SMART NIGHT VISION BOOST

HALL 6 STAND G146

BY JULES ROUKOZ

At Eurosatory, where incremental upgrades can translate into decisive battlefield advantages, SENOP is turning heads with its OSKAR Thermal Weapon Sight (TWS) - a compact yet highly capable system designed to bring new life to the iconic NAMMO M72 shoulder-fired weapon.

Developed in close cooperation with Nammo Raufoss AS, the OSKAR TWS is far more than a simple thermal add-on. It is an intelligent sighting solution aimed at significantly improving first-hit probability, extending effective engagement distances, and transforming night-fighting capability for light anti-armour systems.

At its core, OSKAR is built around an uncooled long-wave infrared (LWIR) thermal sensor with a 12 µm pixel pitch, delivering imagery to a full-colour OLED display with a resolution of 800 x 600 pixels. The system provides a fixed 1,8x optical magnification, complemented by digital zoom options at 2x and 4x, ensuring flexibility across engagement scenarios.

Despite its advanced functionality, the unit remains notably compact, measuring just 185 x 68 x 96 mm and weighing under 700 grams including batteries and mount. Power is supplied by two CR123 lithium batteries, offering more than six hours of continuous operation, even in demanding field conditions.

One of OSKAR's standout features is its integrated ballistic computer, which works in conjunction with an optional wireless add-on unit. This module incorporates an eye-safe Class 1 laser rangefinder operating at 1.5 µm, with a range spanning from 20 metres up to an impressive 4,500 metres. It also enables remote-control connectivity via Bluetooth, opening the door to networked and data-driven engagements.

In terms of battlefield performance, SENOP highlights robust DRI (Detection, Recognition, Identification) capabilities, allowing operators to effectively detect and engage targets even in degraded visual environments. The system's field of view, at 13.5° vertically and 10° horizontally, strikes a balance between situational awareness and target focus. Thanks to advanced ballistic computing engagement distance is significantly longer than ever seen with M72.

Crucially, OSKAR is not limited to the M72. Thanks to its NATO-standard attachment rail and clip-on architecture, it can be rapidly mounted or removed and employed across a wide range of weapon platforms, including assault rifles and machine guns.

Designed to meet stringent military standards, the OSKAR TWS is qualified to STANAG AECTP 300, 400 and 500, and operates reliably in extreme temperatures ranging from -40°C to +63°C. As an ITAR-free solution, it also offers clear advantages for international customers seeking fewer export restrictions.

With OSKAR, SENOP is effectively bridging the gap between legacy shoulder-fired systems and modern digital battlefield requirements - delivering a lightweight, adaptable, and smart thermal solution that enhances lethality without compromising simplicity.

In a show packed with high-tech innovations, OSKAR proves that sometimes the smartest upgrades come in the smallest packages. ●

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BAE SYSTEMS LAUNCHES NEW INDIRECT FIRE CONTROL SYSTEM

BY GILES EBBUTT

BAE Systems is developing what it is calling a Next Generation Indirect Fire Control System which is "designed to enhance the precision, speed and connectivity of modern artillery operations" and is launching it at Eurosatory.

According to BAE the system is intended to support artillery crews at the point of fire, providing a modern digital fire control system that enables faster targeting, improved accuracy and enhanced operational awareness. The capability supports the delivery of indirect fires while connecting individual guns with wider sensor and effector networks, allowing data to move seamlessly across operations.

Target information from forward observers and sensors on uncrewed systems and satellites is passed across the command and control network to the command post where it is processed to generate a precise firing solution, which is then passed to the weapons. This enables accurate gun pointing and orientation.

Built around an open architecture approach, the system has been designed to integrate with a wide range of existing and future platforms. The design enables the system to operate across different artillery platforms and digital environments, allowing operators to incorporate sensors, command systems and other effectors as part of a connected ecosystem.

This flexible architecture also supports future upgrades, enabling armed forces to evolve their fire control capabilities over time without requiring significant changes to existing equipment. By supporting integration across multiple systems, it helps to deliver a more agile and responsive capability.

Speaking at a media briefing prior to Eurosatory Ian Kelly, business development director for BAE Systems Weapons Systems UK, said that "increasingly, targeting data flows from unmanned systems and other sensors across command networks to progressively more dispersed forces, so the capability that we're developing connects sensors, command networks and artillery platforms through a scalable digital architecture. But at its heart it still remains an on-gun fire control and pointing system."

He emphasised that the system is designed to be weapon and network agnostic and is not tied to any particular platform. "It's an open architecture solution and that makes it easier to integrate with a wide range of artillery platforms and supporting technologies. It gives the customers the flexibility they don't have at the moment…..to improve the speed, accuracy and interoperability of their systems. The capability that we're going to provide offers a way of adding modern digital fire control without replacing the underlying platform."

Initially the system will comply fully with the UK land open architecture, the Generic Vehicle Architecture (GVA). Work is in progress to implement the Land Data Model (LDM) and to explore Sensing for Asset Protection with Integrated Electronic Networked Technology (SAPIENT) and AIM for battlefield integration. Where reasonably practicable, compliance with other similar standards such as the US Advanced Field Artillery Tactical Data System Artillery Execution Suite (AFATDS AXS) is also being investigated.

For hardware the VITA 65 (OpenVPX) standard is currently being used, but the aim is also to use edge compute where architecturally appropriate to enable maximum configurability and flexibility.

Speaking at the same briefing Simon Evans, research & development director, BAE Systems Weapon Systems UK, explained that development of the system had begun both in response to feedback from unspecified existing customers and in response to the current operational environment, particularly in Ukraine. He said that the system was still under development and it would probably be ready for field testing by the end of 2026. He added that the intention was to begin with like-for-like replacements of, for example, gun pointing systems which are integrated into the digital architecture "and then evolve it from there".

The aspiration, Evans said, is "to reduce what currently takes minutes from the call for fire to firing the weapon down to tens of seconds, depending on the capability of the network". He noted that the system would still have a "man on the loop", partly for safety reasons, but it would eliminate time-consuming human involvement in the passage of data.

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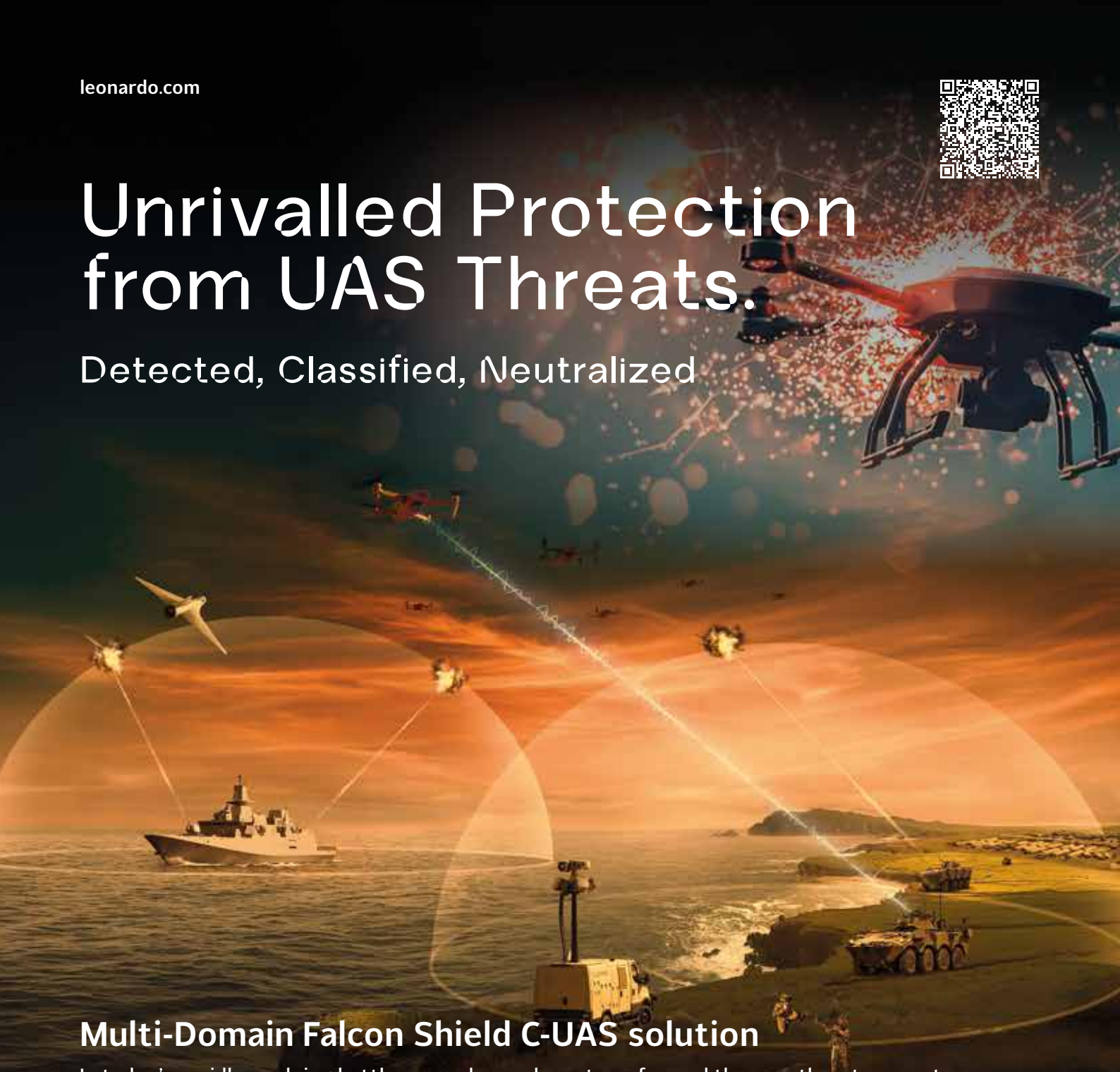

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ERICSSON'S DIGITAL EDGE AT EUROSATORY

BY JOSEPH ROUKOZ

SWEDISH PAVILION

Presented at Eurosatory, Ericsson's vision for the digital battlespace centres on one simple idea: modern operations will be won by those who can collect, move and exploit data faster than their adversary. In an era where commanders, sensors and effectors must remain connected across land, sea, air, space and cyber, secure broadband connectivity is becoming as critical as firepower itself.

Modern warfare is increasingly shaped by the speed of information. The ability to build real-time situational awareness, share it instantly across the force, and turn it into informed decisions is now a decisive advantage. Ericsson's message in Paris is that commercially available technology, when adapted to mission-critical needs, can act as a force multiplier at scale.

The global group places 5G at the centre of this transition, with 6G already on the horizon. In practical terms, 5G brings far more than higher data rates: it offers ultra-low latency, strong device density and the ability to support data-rich operations at the tactical edge. Ericsson argues that this is particularly relevant for defence users managing unmanned systems, connected vehicles and distributed command-and-control networks.

One of the most operationally useful features is network slicing. By dividing one physical infrastructure into multiple secure virtual channels, forces can allocate dedicated bandwidth to specific missions while preserving resilience and prioritisation. Combined with policy-driven traffic steering, this approach helps ensure continuity even when parts of the network are contested, degraded or isolated.

Ericsson is also pushing a dual-use model, drawing on industrial-scale civilian innovation and applying it to defence-grade requirements. That matters because the company says its solutions are built around security, sovereignty and interoperability, backed by heavy R&D investment and a strong European industrial footprint. For defence customers, the attraction lies in bringing proven technology into environments where reliability cannot be compromised.

The company's Ultra Compact Core is aimed at exactly that need. Designed as a cloud-native, rapidly deployable tactical network, it is meant to be set up quickly and to automate resilience across PACE paths, reducing the burden on operators in the field. In a high-tempo environment, that can make the difference between keeping a mission alive and losing connectivity at the critical moment.

Security remains central to the pitch. Ericsson highlights Zero-Trust Architecture, military-grade encryption and the ability to operate within federated network concepts that can reuse civilian infrastructure while retaining military control. The addition of non-terrestrial connectivity also points to a broader architecture, extending communications into remote or denied areas through satellite-linked systems.

Looking beyond communications, Ericson is advancing Integrated Sensing and Communication (ISAC), a technology enabling mobile networks to both communicate and sense physical objects in the surrounding environment. By analysing radio frequency reflections, ISAC can detect and track low-altitude objects such as drones. For defence and public safety users, this creates opportunities for enhanced localisation, continuous drone detection and situational awareness by leveraging existing network sites, with 6G expanding these use cases.

That evolution is especially relevant for military sites, airports and critical infrastructure, where sensing at scale could add a new layer of protection. Ericsson sees this not as a side feature, but as the next step in the transformation of mobile networks into operational intelligence systems.

At Eurosatory, the company is clearly positioning itself not simply as a connectivity provider, but as a strategic technology partner for the digital battlespace. Drawing on decades of mission-critical communications expertise, proven global leadership in 5G, and a footprint spanning more than 200 live networks in over 80 countries, the company is making the case for a broader ecosystem approach-one that brings together telecoms, defence, and the wider innovation chain around a shared objective: ensuring allied forces retain their edge in the digital fight.

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C-UAV/UAS SYSTEMS

BY JEAN-PIERRE HUSSON

HALL 4 STAND H371

French company SCOPEX specialises in the supply and distribution of tactical military equipment with advanced technologies for defence and security forces. The new C-UAV/C-UAS systems distributed by SCOPEX include next-generation integrated systems based on software-defined technology, portable jamming and wearable sensors, primarily developed in partnership with DroneShield. The principal newly-introduced products in the catalogue are divided into three operational categories: Mobile and Vehicular Systems, Handheld and Wearable Devices (Dismounted), and Command and Control (C2).

For the first category the DroneSentry-X Mk2, a software-defined adaptive detection and countermeasure system designed for rapid installation on moving vehicles or at temporary fixed sites, offers flexible perimeter protection against drones; the Immediate Response Kit (IRK), a tactical, ultra-fast-deploying anti-drone solution packed into a mobile kit for assault units in the field; and the Magnetic Antenna Kit that can be quickly mounted on the roof of any operational vehicle to provide 360° detection capabilities while on the move. The second category includes the DroneGun Mk4, the latest evolution of the frequency-disruption rifle (jammer); the RfPatrol Mk2, an ultra-lightweight drone detection device worn directly on the soldier's gear (ranges up to 4 km without emitting signals that could give away the operator's position); and the RfPatrol Mk2 Direction Finding Kit, an add-on module that allows the operator to instantly switch from omnidirectional detection (presence of a drone) to pinpointing the exact direction of the threat via an RF switch. Finally, for the third category SCOPEX offers the DroneSentry-C2 Tactical, an air-gapped tactical software platform isolated from the internet to ensure maximum cybersecurity. It aggregates real-time data from multiple distributed sensors (such as RfPatrol handhelds or Mk2 vehicular modules) to display an interactive aerial threat map to field commanders. ●

RECOVERING NICELY, THANK YOU...

BY SHAUN CONNORS

HALL 6 STAND H335

At Eurosatory 2026, 2026, winch system specialist ROTZLER is presenting a new twin winch system for operations with heavy-duty trailer, including tank transporters. In addition to pulling extremely heavy vehicles, a key challenge is the loading and unloading of damaged or disabled vehicles in a controlled and precise way. This difficulty of the task is exacerbated when the target vehicle is not ideally aligned with the trailer.

ROTZLER's TARVOS twin winch system allows both winches to work together for heavy loads, while simultaneously influencing the vehicle's lateral position during loading. This gives the operator improved control for accurately guiding vehicles onto a low-loader.

The company's APEX® control system coordinates and synchronises both winches, supporting controlled, predictable operation. Compared to a single pulling direction, the twin winch configuration enables both controlled pulling and controlled positioning during loading and unloading.

For the operator, this means better load control, fewer corrective manoeuvres and a more efficient, structured loading process. A suitable range of accessories, such as chains and shackles, can complete the overall recovery package.

In complex operating environments such as those commonplace in military operations, fast and controlled loading is essential. The twin winch configuration helps the operator manoeuvre and position a disabled vehicle more precisely, even when the trailer cannot be ideally aligned with the load. This is especially valuable in uneven terrain, in confined areas or when recovery time must be minimised. The operator remains in control, while the system provides significant assistance through coordinated winch operation.

Functions such as constant load support controlled loading when a vehicle is unevenly positioned or requires careful guidance. During unloading, constant speed can help create a controlled process in which one winch pulls while the other provides braking.

Together, these functions make demanding operations easier to manage, more predictable and more repeatable for the operator.

At Eurosatory, ROTZLER is also highlighting the APEX® control system, an integrated control system platform designed specifically for heavy-duty military, towing and recovery vehicles. It acts as the 'brain' for complex operations, allowing operators to safely and seamlessly manage multiple high-power subsystems like winches, cranes, and outriggers from a single interface.

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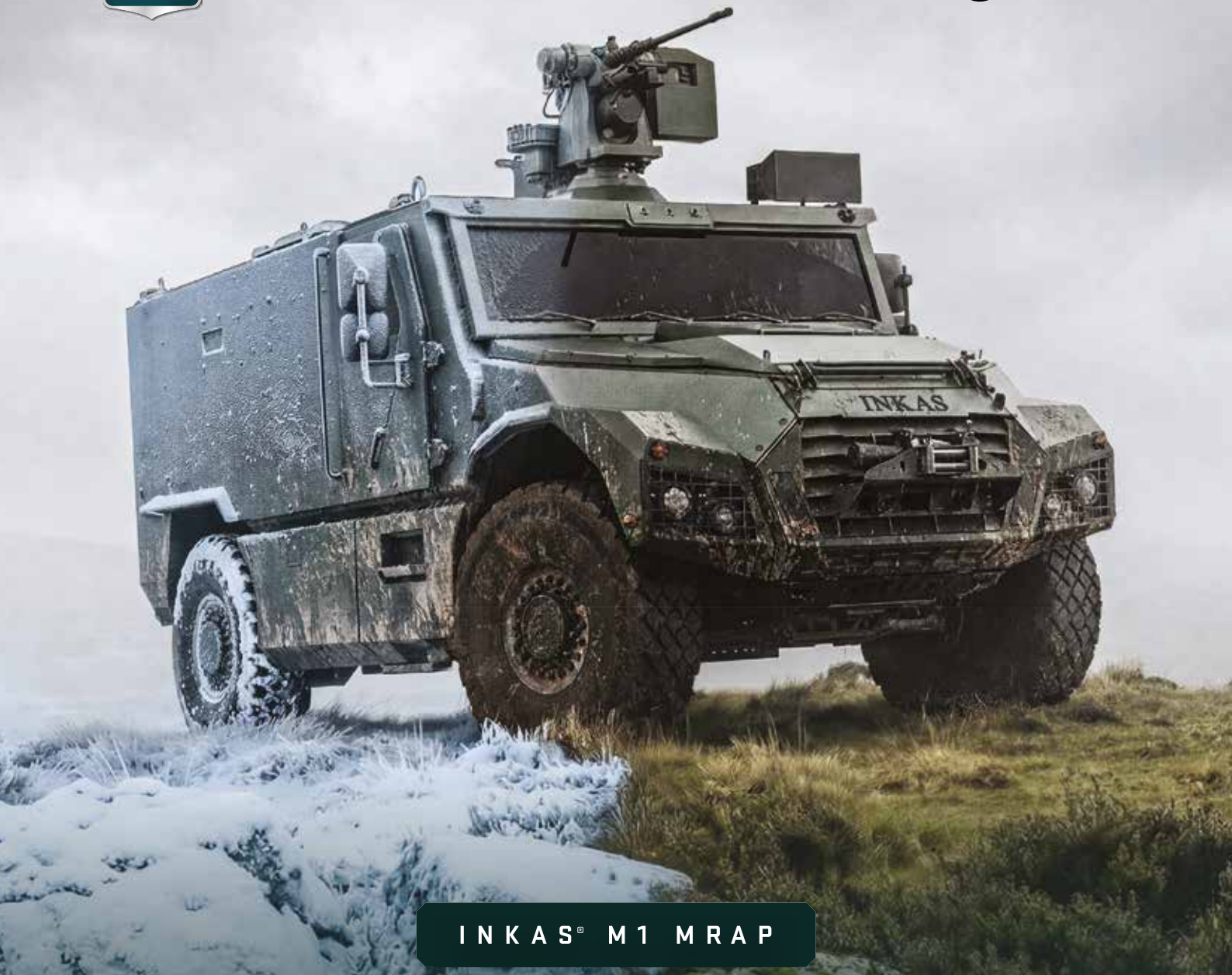

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ENHANCED DEFENCE CAPABILITIES WITH ALLEN-VANGUARD

BY DAVID OLIVER

HALL 5A STAND DE345

Allen-Vanguard's Electromagnetic Warfare (EW) solutions are designed to tackle the dynamic challenges of EW, enabling clients to neutralise enemy RF devices and maintain strategic superiority.

With over two decades of expertise, the company has created advanced RF solutions tailored to ensuring operational readiness and adaptability against emerging threats. Its innovative countermeasures include strategic capabilities to counteract threats such as radio-controlled IEDs (RCIED), UAS, and other EW platforms, ensuring a proactive defence posture.

While it will highlight its core strengths in RF CEMA and EW, Allen-Vanguard's commitment to innovation extends to developing advanced solutions such as RF Decoy, GNSS spoofing, and cell phone emulation. These capabilities underscore the company's dedication to staying at the forefront of defence technology.

To empower your mission Allen-Vanguard can be trusted to deliver mission-critical solutions that enhance force survivability and operational success. Its relentless pursuit of innovation and excellence ensures you stay ahead of evolving threats. ●

WHEN THE CLOUD REACHES THE FRONT LINE, ALITER TECHNOLOGIES BRINGS ICT CONTROL TO THE TACTICAL EDGE

BY JULES ROUKOZ

HALL 5B STAND E175

At Eurosatory, Aliter Technologies is showcasing the Tactical Cloud Controller AT10404, a system designed to simplify and accelerate ICT administration at the tactical edge. Presented as a next-generation solution for Next-Gen ICT Administration for the Tactical Edge, it aims to replace cumbersome manual network setups with a faster, smarter and more secure automated approach.

Built for demanding operational environments, the TCC AT10404 enables complete vehicle and military command posts networks to be deployed simultaneously using template-based configurations, significantly reducing set-up time and limiting the risk of human error. Its simplified interface is intended to allow non-IT personnel to manage complex network tasks with confidence, a major advantage for command posts and forward-deployed units.

At the heart of the system, the AT10404 acts as a central node for managing and synchronising local systems across the tactical environment. Its design places equal emphasis on ergonomics, resilience and security. The ruggedised chassis complies with MIL-STD-810, MIL-STD-461 and MIL-STD-1275F, providing protection against water, dust and electromagnetic interference.

On the security side, the system facilitates robust security compliance management through several key features. It includes a Golden Config function, which allows operators to rapidly restore all connected devices to a predefined secure state. Furthermore, the system incorporates a Zeroize capability for the immediate physical erasure of sensitive data in emergency situations.

With the Tactical Cloud Controller AT10404, Tactical Cloud Planner and Tactical Cloud Orchestrator, Aliter Technologies is offering a practical answer to one of the key challenges of modern operations: bringing data-centre-level intelligence to the tactical edge without compromising robustness, speed or security. ●

HALL
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G391

SMART HELMETS FROM GALVION

BY GILES EBBUTT

US head systems specialist Galvion has continued to evolve its CORTEX architecture and is showcasing its most recent development, the CORTEX EVO system together with its new HALO configuration, to the NATO/EU market at Eurosatory. The CORTEX system is integrated onto Galvion's flagship Batlskin Caiman helmet and is designed to unify power, data and processing in a modular ecosystem. HALO is an externally mounted implementation designed to bring advanced headborne capabilities to both new and fielded helmet platforms.

CORTEX EVO embeds power distribution, data connectivity and processing directly within the helmet structure. This approach reduces reliance on externally mounted components and enables more seamless interaction between sensing, visual and communication systems. The system architecture combines a ballistic core, embedded power and data pathways, and a lightweight composite shell structure, reflecting a deliberate approach to integration.

According to Galvion "it rethinks component design and system architecture to preserve the size, weight and performance characteristics expected of a ballistic helmet, while establishing a compact, scalable foundation for future configurations across platforms."

At the core of the system is Galvion's AlertCentr software, which enables mission-relevant data to be delivered and managed at the headborne level. Integrated within Tactical Assault Kit (TAK)-based environments, AlertCentr supports configurable visual and audio cueing, allowing operators to access and act on critical information without diverting attention to secondary devices.

The system integrates multiple capability elements within the CORTEX architecture. Visual augmentation provides TAK video, sensor feeds and navigation integrations while detection and identification capabilities support enhanced threat awareness. Digital headset integration provides audio and communications and enables configurable alerts and system-level interaction. A unified power and data infrastructure architecture enables scalable subsystem integration.

Galvion's open architecture approach allows both Galvion-developed and third-party technologies to operate within a single system environment. In line with this, Galvion has collaborated with partners to develop the CORTEX ecosystem. Sentinel Photonics contributes advanced laser threat detection capabilities; Adventure Lights provides IFF signalling and intermediary laser detection; Thermoteknix supports optical and fused imaging integration; and Distance Technologies contributes to advanced visual augmentation pathways that support the evolution of headborne display and visualization capabilities.

The Embedded and HALO configurations provide a common Cortex EVO architecture, enabling users to access the same core capabilities through implementation approaches aligned with their operational requirements, procurement strategies and lifecycle objectives. Initially available for Galvion's Batlskin Caiman helmet system, with planned expansion to the Hellbender platform, the EVO HALO configuration provides a flexible implementation pathway that can be delivered as part of new helmet systems or integrated onto fielded helmets through upgrade and modernization programmes.

Galvion was recently awarded a new order from the Canadian Department of National Defence for 29,000 Caiman ballistic helmet systems, following earlier orders totalling 15,000. ●

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MOTOROLA SOLUTIONS SHOWCASES TECHNOLOGY ECOSYSTEM

BY GILES EBBUTT

HALL 5A STAND E324 & EXTPE6A A185

Motorola Solutions, which has operations in over 100 countries and has more than 100,000 customers, is showcasing several of its defence-related communications solutions at Eurosatory. Aimed at providing data-driven mission critical networks, they include products from Motorola's 2025 acquisitions of Silvus and CRFS.

The centrepiece of Motorola's "ecosystem of technologies" is HABLAR (Spanish for 'to talk'), an ISO container-based system that provides a multi-bearer voice and data communications node. The concept was originally developed for the German Army for the Zellulare Netze verlegefähig (ZNV - deployable cellular networks) programme. The company was awarded a contract in 2021 for 40 container systems combining terrestrial trunked radio (TETRA) with LTE for data transmission.

Fergus Mayne, Motorola VP Sales for Europe, told the Show Daily in a pre-show interview that HABLAR was aimed at providing high-capacity data communications in rear areas while meeting the need for dispersal on the modern battlefield. He said that in addition to the original TETRA/LTE solution "we've added WAVE PTX, which provides push-to-talk over 4G LTE together with our Silvus MANET (mobile ad hoc network), which provides much greater capability." MANET technology provides a self-healing mesh network and is increasingly being used for dismounted soldier and uncrewed platform communications.

Mayne explained that a HABLAR container can be deployed and operational within 30 minutes, with each one providing a 20 km² bubble. The bubbles can be linked together using the Silvus mesh network, while the HABLAR containers can also integrate a low earth orbit satellite capability to provide long-range back-haul communications. Mayne added that Motorola was also developing a vehicle-borne HABLAR that would provide a similar but more limited capability.

He added that the Bundeswehr were now "looking at a more capable version of the original ZNV installation", that several European countries were interested and that a prototype HABLAR container had been deployed on exercise with an unspecified NATO army to demonstrate the capability.

Also on display will be the Silvus StreamCaster radio family, notably the StreamCaster NEXUS, a dismounted tactical networking solution which pairs the SM5200 MANET radio with a Samsung end user device (EUD). The SM5200 uses the Silvus proprietary mobile networked multiple-input multiple-output (MN-MIMO) waveform and the unique integrated interference cancellation and network-wide power control. The EUD hosts the Android Tactical Assault Kit (ATAK) battle management application: radio and network configurations can be managed through the StreamScape ATAK plug-in.

Motorola will also be showcasing two products from RF specialists CRFS: the Aerial Monitoring System (AMS) and the RFeye Ranger.

The former is an integrated multi-sensor tethered quadcopter drone, the ISS Aerospace Sensus M4, that can be deployed at heights up to 100m. It is equipped with an RFeye Node 100-18 LW RF sensor and an optical and thermal NextVision DragonEye2 camera.

The lightweight RF sensor provides wideband radio monitoring and geolocation of transmitters up to 18GHz, with 100MHz of instantaneous bandwidth capture. The drone has dual omnidirectional antennas with 30-512MHz and 500MHz-18GHz fitted as standard. It can provide direction finding using time difference of arrival technology and geolocation when networked with other RF sensors, either ground-based or aerial. The long-range camera can detect, track and classify static and moving objects.

The AMS tether station is an Elistair Safe-T, custom-built by ISS. The ground control station, also custom-built by ISS, provides flight and payload control screens. Output connections allow RF and camera information to be displayed on external screens.

The RFeye Ranger is a lightweight (less than 6.5kg) backpack solution using the same technology that enables single operator use for dismounted operations. It has 30MHz-18GHz omnidirectional antennas and a compact 2-18GHz antenna head for direction finding. It provides real-time SIGINT processing and analysis, can be networked with other RFeye sensors to provide geolocation and has an intuitive interface which can be hosted on a tablet or in the tactical assault kit.
Mayne said that the AMS has been used in the Red force role on recent exercises by an unspecified NATO army. ●

LEONARDO DRS UNVEILS A HIGH-SPEED BATTLESPACE ECOSYSTEM AT EUROSATORY 2026

BY JOSEPH ROUKOZ

HALL 5A STAND B320

At Eurosatory 2026, Leonardo DRS is making a clear and confident statement: the future battlespace will be defined not simply by firepower, but by the ability to sense earlier, decide faster, and act with seamless integration across increasingly complex operational environments. The company's latest portfolio reflects this reality, bringing together counter-UAS capabilities, advanced sensing technologies, battle management systems, and cutting-edge computing solutions designed for the tactical edge.

Central to Leonardo DRS's presence this year is its integrated counter-UAS and air defence architecture, engineered to support rapid detect-to-defeat cycles. The system combines a layered approach of sensors, command-and-control interfaces, and effectors, enabling operators to identify and neutralise aerial threats with reduced latency. By linking radar, electro-optical sensors, and electronic warfare components into a unified network, the solution enhances situational awareness while enabling faster and more informed decision-making. This approach is particularly relevant as low-cost drone threats continue to proliferate across modern theatres of operation.

Equally significant is the company's combat-proven Battle Management System (BMS), a scalable digital command-and-control solution already fielded on more than 200,000 platforms across US and allied forces. Designed with interoperability at its core, the BMS supports real-time situational awareness through AI-enabled and -integrated data fusion and advanced visualisation tools. Its cyber-hardened architecture ensures resilience against electronic and cyber threats, while enabling seamless integration within next-generation C5ISR-EW frameworks. The system's ability to operate across both manned and unmanned platforms reflects a broader shift towards network-centric warfare, where information dominance becomes a decisive factor.

In the sensing domain, Leonardo DRS is showcasing a suite of battle-proven electro-optical and infrared solutions tailored for both dismounted soldiers and vehicle-mounted applications. These systems include high-performance thermal weapon sights and compact thermal camera cores, designed to deliver reliable target detection, recognition, and identification in all lighting and weather conditions. Leveraging advanced sensor fusion and image processing algorithms, the solutions maintain operational effectiveness in degraded environments such as smoke, fog, or low-visibility urban settings. This capability is critical for maintaining tactical superiority in contested and unpredictable scenarios.

Supporting this increasingly data-intensive battlespace is Leonardo DRS's innovation in shipboard and tactical computing, notably through its Tactical Immersion Cooling System (TICS). This ruggedised solution addresses the growing demand for high-density processing at the edge by efficiently dissipating heat in harsh operational environments. By using liquid immersion techniques, the system enables greater computing performance within compact footprints, while improving reliability and reducing maintenance requirements. This is particularly relevant for naval platforms and forward-deployed units where space, power, and environmental constraints are significant considerations.

Viewed in toto, Leonardo DRS's showcase at Eurosatory highlights a coherent and forward-looking approach to modern warfare. By integrating sensing, decision-making, and computing into a unified ecosystem, the company is positioning itself at the forefront of a battlespace increasingly defined by speed, connectivity, and resilience so military forces can Own the Edge™. ●

THALES UNVEILS NEW AI-POWERED TRAINING DATA ANALYTICS PLATFORM

BY GILES EBBUTT

Thales has developed an AI training data analytics platform to add to its Gladiator laser-based live training tactical engagement simulation system (TESS), the company announced on the opening day of Eurosatory. The system leverages AI to convert complex, high-volume training data into clear, actionable insights, enabling more effective post-training debriefing.

Speaking at a pre-show briefing, Bastien Poublan, product manager for the Gladiator Data Analytics Platform, observed that "debriefing is the key to good training". He noted that a vast amount of data is collected during live training at a combat training centre (CTC), which instructors have to analyse rapidly in order to deliver the after-action review (AAR) to trainees. The new platform aggregates data from the exercise control system (Excon), integrating sensor inputs from soldiers, vehicles, drones and infrastructure.

"It's critical that this data is accurate and trustworthy" Poublan said "and this also contributes to buy-in by trainees." He said that the AAR must be relevant, indisputable, immediately ready and reflect the doctrine of the training unit.

Instructors are currently faced with three issues: information overload, resulting in important insights being missed; hard-to-exploit data, as some may lack readability or require extensive effort to become usable; and weak evidence - currently, observation and findings are not always backed by solid data and may be subjective.

The platform can offer new insights to draw maximum learning value from exercises, with increased reliability by reducing the risk of missing important data. Radio communications are automatically transcribed, even in degraded and noisy environments, then processed using natural language algorithms. This gives instructors a structured view of how the chain of command operated throughout the exercise, supporting more precise coaching and doctrine refinement.

The platform provides simplified and optimised debriefing, maximising training time for soldiers, reducing instructors' workload and offering learning backed by strong factual data and concrete KPIs, not anecdotal evidence, with greater impact through clear and customisable graphics.

It also gives the ability to track adherence to unit doctrine and tactics, techniques and procedures. Metrics are aligned with doctrinal frameworks and tailored to the specific objectives of each training programme, allowing instructors to analyse decisions made under pressure, and support more rigorous, targeted debriefings directly linked to continuous performance improvement.

The results of the data analysis are presented on a series of dashboards, which include a timeline with key events and the ability to replay activity as tracked by the instrumented TESS, which can be filtered as required. Analysis of general aspects such as force concentration and weapon usage can be displayed, as can more specific areas of performance such as attrition, medical information, weapon accuracy, and the analysis of communications.

Poublan noted that the medical analysis was particularly useful as it showed not only whether immediate treatment was effective but also the efficiency of the entire casualty treatment chain. Weapon accuracy analysis can identify poor shooting and indicate the need for future emphasis on marksmanship training.

The platform also provides comparative data, showing performance compared to previous exercises by other units using the same scenario

Poublan said that the platform is designed for fully secure, sovereign environments and is deployable on standalone systems and on-premise infrastructure, with no internet connection required. It can be used in both fixed and mobile CTCs. He said that the platform had been developed in conjunction with existing customers and had been tested in existing facilities.

The Gladiator TESS is used by the French Army at the Centre d'Entraînement aux Actions en Zone Urbaine (CENZUB - Urban Warfare Centre) at Sisonne and the Centre d'Entraînement au Combat (CENTAC - combat training centre) at Mailly-le-Camp, as well as at the Swiss Army's two CTCs. It is also used by unspecified Middle East countries.

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