

## **Thales selected by the DGA to equip the French Navy's new offshore patrol vessels with the latest maritime surveillance technologies**

- Thales will equip the French Navy's seven first new offshore patrol vessels with its Bluewatcher hull sonar, its new compact multi-mission surveillance radar, the NS50, and its IFF (Identification Friend or Foe) TSA 3522. Thales will be involved in the integration of this equipment.
- These solutions will enable offshore patrol vessels to carry out their operational missions by providing active and passive surveillance against underwater threats, aerial surface surveillance, fire control and identification.
- This contract with the French Defence Procurement Agency (DGA) meets the requirements of the new Military Planning Law (LPM) for the period 2024-2030. Three new offshore patrol vessels may be added to the fleet after 2030.



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**Thales will supply the French Navy with a sensor suite comprising Bluewatcher sonar, NS50 radar and an IFF identification system for its new offshore patrol vessels. The first vessel will enter service in 2027.**

The French Navy's new offshore patrol vessels will replace the Estienne d'Orves class of type A69 Avisos and OPV54-class public service patrol boats. They will operate in French metropolitan waters, primarily across the continental shelf (i.e. to depths of 200 m) and continental slope and rise (to depths of 1,000 m). Designed for long endurance, the new multi-role OPVs will perform escort roles for front-line warships. In particular, they will be dispatched ahead of nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarines (SSBNs) as they leave port to provide intelligence and deterrence and act as scout vessels. They could also be deployed to control maritime areas above and below the surface and defend territories at sea, as well as taking part in missions to evacuate nationals.

These highly innovative and capable Thales systems have already been proven at sea and will enable the new OPVs to accomplish their missions with optimum effectiveness.

The Bluewatcher sonar is a proven system offering high underwater detection performance. With its low-draught design, it is particularly suitable for small vessels operating in shallow waters. The NS50 is the first compact 4D multi-mission AESA (Active Electronically Scanned Array) radar for low/medium-tonnage vessels. It provides air and surface surveillance capabilities as well as performing fire control functions for naval guns and missiles. The NS50 provides the highly precise data needed for rapid target acquisition, engagement of short-range fire-and-forget surface-to-air missiles, and fire control functions for engagement of surface threats by naval guns.

Complementing the NS50 radar, Thales's advanced TSA 3522 IFF (Identification Friend or Foe) interrogator is Mode 5 certified by the US Department of Defense (DoD) AIMS Program Office for deployment on allied operations with NATO forces. This high-reliability system provides a complete cryptographic solution that identifies objects detected by the radar in complete security, and also identifies civil aircraft.

*"This new contract with the French defence procurement agency will enable the French Navy to support the missions of France's Strategic Oceanic Force (FOST), monitor the country's maritime approaches and contribute to state action at sea. Thales is mobilising all of its resources and expertise to provide France with a suite of advanced sensors based on the very best technologies."* **Philippe Duhamel, Executive Vice President, Defence Mission Systems, Thales**

## About Thales

Thales (Euronext Paris: HO) is a global technology leader serving the aerospace, defence and digital identity and security markets. Our solutions help to make the world safer, greener and more inclusive.

We invest close to €4 billion a year in research and development to drive innovation in key areas such as quantum technologies, far edge computing, 6G and cybersecurity.

Thales has 77,000 employees in 68 countries. In 2022, the company generated sales of €17.6 billion.

## Thales in the naval domain

With more than 50 years of experience as a provider of naval equipment, systems and services, Thales offers naval forces around the world unrivalled expertise and proven operational benefits. Thales understands how naval and maritime affairs are evolving today, and leverages those insights to help ensure the success of a broad range of naval missions around the world.

Thales air defence, surface defence, anti-submarine warfare and maritime safety & security systems are now in service with more than 50 navies

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