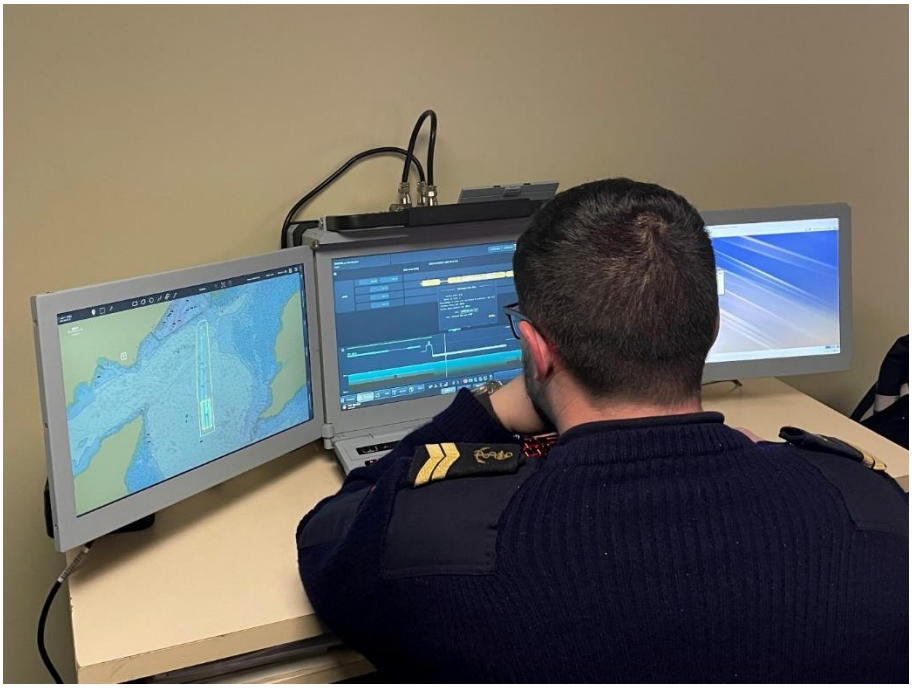
Thales provides expeditionary operations centre demonstrator to French Navy for drone-based mine countermeasures missions

- Thales took less than six months to develop the Expeditionary Portable Operations Centre (e-POC), a lightweight, full-function mission planning, management and analysis demonstrator for mine countermeasures operations relying on unmanned underwater vehicles (UUVs).
- The innovative demonstrator is a small form-factor, easily transportable operations centre that will enhance force agility by allowing naval operators to control up to three underwater minehunting drones simultaneously from a single computer set up on board a ship or at a shore station.
- The e-POC solution builds on the M-Cube and MiMap systems, which are currently undergoing operational evaluation by the French Navy, and a number of new system developments.



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The French defence procurement agency (DGA) placed an order with Thales, via the Organisation for Joint Armament Cooperation (OCCAr), for the provision of an Expeditionary Portable Operations Centre (e-POC) to meet the French Navy's new requirement for a drone-based mine countermeasures capability. The system was developed in less than six months and has been accepted by the DGA and OCCAr after completing sea trials and delivered to the French Navy. The e-POC demonstrator enables naval forces to conduct mine countermeasures missions quickly and efficiently using only unmanned underwater vehicles (UUVs).

Thales's e-POC demonstrator is an easily transportable solution that will ultimately enable the French Navy to deploy underwater drones for mine countermeasures missions in any theatre of operations. It will provide a flexible mission management capability from outside the zone of operations, helping to keep naval personnel out of harm's way. The e-POC demonstrator runs

software developed for the M-Cube[1] and MiMap[2] systems on a single computer equipped with three control screens to plan, execute and analyse missions requiring the simultaneous deployment of up to three UUVs. The system can be set up on board a ship or at a shore station, and is small enough to fit into just six transport cases for deployment into the theatre of operations. The transport cases are stowed inside the UUV container to streamline logistics and boost mission effectiveness.

"Thales has combined the power of innovation with the agility of its development teams to augment the defensive capabilities of the French Navy. The e-POC solution is designed for rapid deployment into any theatre of operations, making a valuable contribution to future mine countermeasures missions and helping to guarantee the safety of naval personnel."
Gwendoline Blandin-Roger, Vice-President Underwater Systems, Thales.

About Thales's mine countermeasures solutions

Thales has been a major player in mine countermeasures for the last 50 years. The company has delivered more than 300 minehunting sonars to naval forces worldwide and equips approximately half of the mine countermeasures vessels in service today.

Thales developed the world's first comprehensive drone-based mine countermeasures system under the MMCM programme (Maritime Mine Counter Measures). The first two system prototypes were delivered to the French and UK defence ministries in November 2021 and are currently undergoing operation evaluation by the navies of both countries. A series of six complete systems will be delivered to France and the United Kingdom in 2024 and 2025.

This integrated system of systems relies on the M-Cube mission system to control unmanned surface vessels (USVs) and unmanned underwater vehicles (UUVs) equipped with high-performance sonars.

The MiMap system, with the support of Artificial Intelligence, analyses sonar data in real time or after the mission, providing a detailed picture of the seabed, classifying and locating objects of interest, making comparisons with the last known situation in a given zone and providing unparalleled area coverage and false alarm rates.

Currently the only system of its kind in the world, MMCM will provide the UK Royal Navy and the French Navy with a fully drone-based mine countermeasures capability.

About Thales

Thales (Euronext Paris: HO) is a global leader in advanced technologies within three domains: Defence & Security, Aeronautics & Space, and Digital Identity & Security. It develops products and solutions that help make the world safer, greener and more inclusive.

The Group invests close to €4 billion a year in Research & Development, particularly in key areas such as quantum technologies, Edge computing, 6G and cybersecurity.

Thales has 81,000* employees in 68 countries. In 2023, the Group generated sales of €18.4 billion.

* These figures exclude the ground transportation business, which is being divested

[1] *MCUBE is the Mine Counter-measure Mission Management system*
[2] *Mission analysis tool that enables operators to analyse sonar data in real time or recorded during a mission, with the support of artificial intelligence.*

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