

The French defence procurement has officially notified Thales and CS GROUP to develop PARADE drone countermeasures system

- A consortium led by Thales and CS GROUP has been notified by the French defence procurement agency (DGA) to develop and deliver the PARADE¹ drone countermeasures capability, with firm commitments for €33 million out of a total programme budget of €350 million over 11 years.
- The modular, multi-mission PARADE system will detect, classify and safely neutralise micro- and mini-drones either to protect sensitive sites on a temporary basis or as part of deployments abroad.
- The PARADE system will be able to reinforce the security of the public and the infrastructures during large gatherings.



Thales, CS GROUP are their partners in France and Europe's defence industrial and technological base are developing the PARADE capability to provide deployable protection from drone threats. The contract was awarded after a European competitive tendering process launched by the DGA in 2021 to strengthen the drone countermeasures (counter-UAV) capabilities of the armed forces.

Millions of new drones will enter the skies over the next 20 years, creating an extremely complex aviation ecosystem and raising significant safety and security challenges. To address this constantly evolving threat environment, the consortium led by Thales and CS GROUP will provide a **scalable, modular, multi-mission drone countermeasures system** to protect fixed military sites or facilities

¹ PARADE: Protection déployable modulairE Anti-DronEs / Deployable, modular anti-drone protection

deployed abroad. The system can also be used by the armed forces to help **protect events, people and civil infrastructure**, in particular during large gatherings.

The partnership between Thales, a recognised player in civil and military air operations for over 40 years, and CS GROUP, an integrator of critical drone countermeasures systems in France, is fully aligned with the missions conducted under the country's special air security arrangements (**DPSA**²) designed to **provide enhanced protection during sensitive events**.

The first order calls for the acquisition of **six PARADE drone countermeasures systems**. With contributions from French SMEs such as CerbAir, Exavision and MC2 Technologies, as well as the Dutch company Robin, the PARADE system will provide decision support, analysis of complex situations and the capability **to neutralise micro-drones and mini-drones**. The contract also includes operator training and system and equipment maintenance and upgrades.

The PARADE system provides **permanent 360° site protection** and is designed for easy transport from one site to another by road, air or sea, considerably increasing its scope of use and speed of deployment.

The first PARADE systems will be delivered to the DGA within a year of the launch of the programme.

As an expert in air supremacy, Thales offers integrated solutions to protect airspace, citizens and infrastructure, and will draw on its experience as a systems integrator and its know-how in air defence, cybersecurity and digital architectures. CS GROUP is a pioneer in drone countermeasures and has deployed operational solutions to meet civilian as well as military requirements since 2016. The company develops modular, scalable, interoperable, cybersecure systems built around a command and control capability that uses artificial intelligence and data fusion technologies to provide a clearer understanding of this constantly evolving threat.

“Thales’s drone countermeasures solutions ensure safety and security at all levels of military and civil airspace. The expertise and experience of our industry ecosystem and our partnerships with French SMEs offer real opportunities for us to innovate and further enhance our value proposition. The consortium led by Thales and CS GROUP enables us to offer a drone countermeasures solution that meets the requirements of the DGA and the French armed forces and ensures the highest level of safety and security for people in large gatherings.” **Thomas Got, Managing Director, Integrated Airspace Protection Systems, Thales.**

“CS GROUP has been involved in drone countermeasures for over eight years and actively monitors the latest technological advances in order to respond effectively to the evolving drone threat and meet the related operational requirements, from large-scale event security to counterterrorism and protection for troops on deployments abroad. The partnership between CS GROUP and Thales provides a comprehensive vision of air security at all levels to guarantee permanent situational awareness and determine the best way to respond to threats. We are very proud that our consortium has been selected for the PARADE programme and that our solution will be helping to keep people safe at major events.” **Marie de Saint Salvy, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, CS Group.**

² DPSA: Dispositif Particulier de Sureté Aérienne / special air security arrangements

About Thales

Thales (Euronext Paris: HO) is a global leader in advanced technologies, investing in digital and “deep tech” innovations – connectivity, big data, artificial intelligence, cybersecurity and quantum technologies – to build a confident future crucial for the development of our societies. The Group provides its customers – businesses, organizations and governments – in the defense, aeronautics, space, transport, and digital identity and security domains with solutions, services and products that help them fulfil their critical role, consideration for the individual being the driving force behind all decisions.

Thales has 81,000 employees in 68 countries. In 2021, the Group generated sales of €16.2 billion.

About CS GROUP

CS GROUP is a major player in the design, integration and operation of mission-critical systems for the defense, security, space, aeronautics and nuclear sectors. As a French mid-size company, CS GROUP offers sovereign solutions to its customers operating in these sensitive sectors. In the field of data intelligence and cybersecurity, CS GROUP is particularly involved in national and European initiatives and with major customers to help guarantee European digital sovereignty.

CS GROUP has 2,300 employees in eight countries. In 2021, the company generated revenues of €237 million. CS GROUP is listed on the Euronext Paris stock market – Compartment C (Shares: Euroclear 7896 / ISIN FR 0007317813). Find out more: www.csgroup.eu

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