LEONARDO TO LEAD OCEAN2020 PROGRAM, THE MOST IMPORTANT EUROPEAN DEFENSE AGENCY RESEARCH TENDER FOR NAVAL SURVEILLANCE TECHNOLOGY

News / Manufacturer



- **OCEAN2020, a European Defence Fund initiative, will boost technological research in the naval domain also by the integration of unmanned platforms in surveillance and interdiction missions**
- **Leonardo is a leader in systems integration and will lead a team of 42 partner companies including Saab, Safran, PGZ and MBDA, research bodies such as NATO CMRE and the defence ministries of five countries**
- **The first operational demonstration will take place in 2019 in the Mediterranean Sea. The demo will involve Leonardo's 'Hero' and 'Solo' unmanned helicopters, naval vessels and systems from a number of partners, including Italian Navy's vessels equipped with Leonardo's systems**

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Leonardo to lead OCEAN2020 program, the first and most important European Defence Agency research

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Leonardo was awarded the most important **project related to the first European Defence Found’s initiative**, **OCEAN2020**, to boost **Europe's defence capabilities**, issued by the **European Union** under the **‘Preparatory Action on Defence Research’ programme**. The competitive selection was conducted by the **European Defence Agency** and will be contracted in the coming weeks.

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The **OCEAN2020 team**, which will be **led by Leonardo**, comprises 4**2 partners from 15 European countries**. These include the **Ministries of Defence of Italy, Greece, Spain, Portugal and Lithuania**, with additional support from the **Ministries of Defence of Sweden, France, the United Kingdom and Estonia and the Netherlands**. European **industrial partners** include **Indra, Safran, Saab, MBDA, PGZ/CTM, Hensoldt, Intracom-IDE, Fincantieri and QinetiQ**. A number of **research centre**s include **Fraunhofer, TNO, CMRE (NATO) and IAI**.

“We are extremely pleased with this result, the OCEAN2020 initiative has a high level of strategic and technological-operational value” said **Alessandro Profumo, CEO of Leonardo**. “It is the leading technological research project dedicated to the very topical issue of maritime surveillance, which is of interest across Europe and to the Mediterranean region in particular. This success has been made possible thanks to the strong collaboration between all 42 team partners which we have the honour to lead.”

OCEAN2020 is the first example of a **cross-European military research programme** to-date. The Leonardo-led bid required a thorough analysis of operational requirements and a technologically-innovative yet operationally-realistic proposal. The research project also will see the **integration of unmanned platforms in surveillance and interdiction missions**.

The success in winning the tender both highlights, and will enhance, **Leonardo’s strength in naval products and integrated systems**. The company’s expertise in the domain includes **command and control systems, unmanned aircraft, sensors, helicopters for naval applications, communications and weapon systems, on the surface and underwater**.

OCEAN2020 will see **unmanned platforms of different type (fixed wing, rotary wing, surface and underwater) integrated with naval units’ command and control centres**, allowing for data exchange via satellite, with command and control centres on land. The joint and cooperative use of both manned and unmanned vehicles will also be demonstrated as part of the project.

Leonardo would like to thank the **Italian Navy** which, as a key OCEAN2020 partner, has and will continue to make important contributions to the project. This includes the development of operational scenarios and making available naval assets and helicopters, which will take part in demonstrations.

In addition to complex simulation work, OCEAN2020 project will involve **two live demonstrations** of maritime surveillance and interdiction operations, conducted by European fleets using unmanned aircraft, surface vessels and underwater systems. **The first demo**, scheduled to take place **in the Mediterranean Sea in 2019**, will be **coordinated by the Italian Navy** and will see **Leonardo’s ‘Hero’ and ‘Solo’ unmanned helicopters** operate from Italian naval units alongside other European partners. **The second demonstration**, which will take place **in 2020 in the Baltic Sea**, will be **coordinated by the Swedish Navy**. The data collected by various systems during these two demos will be processed and sent to a **prototype European command and control centre in Brussels**.

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