

Press release

Euronaval 2022: Nexter and Thales unveil new design of RAPIDFire turret

Le Bourget, 18 October 2022

- **The temporary consortium formed by Nexter and Thales is exhibiting the RAPIDFire system turret in its final form on the Nexter stand at Euronaval.**
- **This remotely operated naval and land artillery system provides platforms with a close-in self-defence capability against air and surface threats.**
- **One of the first systems produced will be installed on French Navy fleet replenishment tanker *Jacques Chevallier* in early 2023 ahead of the at-sea qualification phase.**

A new close-in protection system

Designed to protect platforms from low-level air threats, including drones, RAPIDFire is one of the only air defence systems that can autonomously and automatically acquire, identify and destroy a threat using target designation data provided by a combat management system. With a ready rack of 140 rounds of ammunition, corresponding to about 30 interceptions, the system offers effective firepower against drones and swarms of drones, avoiding attrition of surface-to-air missiles in the event of a saturation attack.

Thanks to automatic real-time selection of different types of ammunition, RAPIDFire is the only system capable of defeating all types of threats, including personal watercraft, free-floating mines, ships, loitering munitions, unmanned aerial systems, fighter jets, attack helicopters and missiles at ranges of up to 4,000 metres.

RAPIDFire is extremely accurate and can defeat threats with no risk of collateral damage thanks to the coupling between the fire control system and the turret, and ultimately through the use of Anti Aerial Airburst (A3B) munitions.

A3B rounds are time-fuzed for greater effectiveness against all types of targets and cannot be jammed, decoyed or triggered by clutter.

RAPIDFire is built around the 40 mm CTA gun suite and ammunition and has already been adopted by the armed forces of France, the United Kingdom and Belgium.

A powerhouse of advanced technologies

- Compact, modern architecture accommodating the 40 mm CTA gun, ammunition and sighting system to autonomously ensure high interception accuracy while retaining a non-penetrating turret design
- 40 mm CTA gun compatible with the full range of 40 mm telescoped munitions from CTAI, including the future Anti Aerial Airburst (A3B) round against airborne targets
- High-precision optronic fire control system from Thales, with a multispectral sight and high-rate laser rangefinder built into the turret
- Multi-target capability with fast-into-action time and automatic selection of different types of ammunition.

A multi-domain system

RAPIDFire can be readily adapted for land-based platforms such as the CAESAR MkII truck chassis. Thanks to its intuitive user interface and on-the-move firing capability, this system can be seamlessly integrated into a fixed or mobile air defence system to protect combat units on the ground as well as military bases, logistics convoys, sensitive sites and high-value assets.

About Nexter

Nexter, the leading French land defence company and one of the main European players in the ammunition sector, is part of the KNDS Group. The scope of its business also includes the supply of weapon systems and munitions for air and naval forces. The company continues to pursue its international development policy with several orders in 2021 for export markets. In France, Nexter is fully committed to meeting the objectives of the SCORPION programme, through the upgrade of the Leclerc tank and the development and production of the VBMR GRIFFON and EBRC JAGUAR vehicles within the temporary business venture between Nexter, Thales and Arquus, as well as the Lightweight VBMR SERVAL (with Texelis). The group's products also include the TITUS® and VBCI armoured vehicles, CAESAR® and 105LG1 artillery systems, smart ammunition (BONUS®, KATANA®), robots and wide-ranging equipment. Nexter's 2021 turnover amounted to €1.3 billion, including 30% devoted to customer services, from training to fleet management to support and revaluation.

More information at www.nexter-group.fr.

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About Thales

Thales (Euronext Paris: HO) is a global high technology leader investing in digital and “deep tech” innovations — connectivity, big data, artificial intelligence, cybersecurity and quantum technology — to build a future we can all trust, which is vital to the development of our societies. The company provides solutions, services and products that help its customers — businesses, organisations and states — in the defence, aeronautics, space, transportation and digital identity and security markets to fulfil their critical missions, by placing humans at the heart of the decision-making process. Thales has 81,000 employees in 68 countries. In 2021, the Group generated sales of €16.2 billion.

For more information visit: www.thalesgroup.com

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