

NATO relies on Thales for a real-time view of the operational situation in joint theaters

- Thales has been awarded by NATO for the delivery of Increment 2 for the NATO Common Operational Picture (NCOP) programme, which will provide joint forces under NATO command with enhanced situational awareness and decision support in the theatre.
- Thales was selected for Increment 1 in 2012 and has now been chosen to upgrade the current version of the system, which has been in service at NATO command centres since 2015.
- Through this contract, Thales will continue to help NATO enhance its mission coordination, planning and command capabilities by providing a unified, real-time representation of information from theatres of operations.



Representation of a NATO command and control center with NCOP vision on the screen © Thales

On 17 March 2021, NATO awarded to Thales the new increment to provide an operational situational awareness system that will give NATO commanders a shared picture of an area of interest or mission to enhance overall awareness of joint forces operations and support mission planning, coordination and command.

Joint operations today involve land, air and naval units with many different types of command systems, which generate huge amounts of georeferenced operational information. NCOP will capture, aggregate and correlate all this information to generate a single, comprehensive picture of the theatre of operations, providing a Common Operational Picture (COP) that will ensure that each entity has a shared view of the location, actions and intentions of the forces in the field.

To meet this requirement, Thales has developed a software system based on an open architecture, with specialised modules that draw on the company's experience of different aspects of the command chain and are fully compliant with commercial and military standards. This system is designed to provide the operational community with secure access to multiple COPs overlays on a geospatial reference. Tactical information from multiple systems and data sources will improve situational awareness for joint forces.

Each COP is displayed in real time and shows key elements such as operations in progress, friendly and enemy forces, their logistics and operational capabilities, weather conditions and possible action plans for future coordinated efforts.

NCOP allows for synchronised management of all deployed forces and provide effective support for collaborative planning and decision-making in an operations centre. This in turn will enable joint forces command to achieve information superiority.

With this second contract, NATO will benefit from Thales's extensive expertise in interoperability management. Thales will upgrade the technology used in the current system, which has been in service at NATO command centres since 2015 and national command centres in France, Poland and Spain. Thales will also add new functionality for time management, event correlation and future strategic analysis.

"Thales is proud to strengthen its partnership with NATO and to help achieve greater decision superiority for NATO forces. We thank the Alliance for placing its trust in us once again and for this latest opportunity to support NATO's capacity to efficiently manage joint forces operations."

G rard Herby, Vice President, Protection Systems, Thales.

About Thales

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Thales has 81,000 employees in 68 countries. In 2020 the Group generated sales of €17 billion.

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