

## Press Release

Communications, Intelligence & Security

### French Navy's surface fleet now equipped with RIFAN 2 secure intranet system

[@AirbusDefence](#)

**Paris, 24 October 2018** – More than sixty vessels in the French Navy are now equipped with the 'Réseau Intranet de la Force Aéronavale étape 2' (RIFAN 2) system, ranging from aircraft carriers and front-line frigates to support ships, patrol craft based overseas, and submarines. Thanks to the system, all ships at sea can now establish secure broadband links with each other and with the onshore command centre.

The RIFAN 2 programme contract, worth around € 160 million, was awarded to an industrial group headed by Airbus as the prime contractor and comprising the Naval Group and Rohde & Schwarz as co-contractors. The purpose of the programme is to equip the French Navy's surface ships and submarines with a truly secure intranet system. It is designed to transmit data with various classification levels, ranging from 'unprotected' to 'secret' and 'NATO secret'. This network transmits data produced by the various applications, both to coordinate operations and for daily and logistical management of life on board, as well as to exchange data between information systems of theatre chiefs of staff on board a vessel for the duration of an operation.

Whether it's a ship sailing alone, a carrier group, or an amphibious group on operations, the various vessels are equipped to meet their respective connectivity requirements. The system is capable of combining several communication streams in order to optimise the use of the transmission capacity available at sea, which is, by nature, limited. It therefore utilises satellite connections, such as Comcept or Syracuse, as well as radio communication resources. Existing radio systems have been refurbished, and a new UHF network has been deployed, which now allows all-IP (Internet Protocol) voice and data exchanges between ships, with a range of several tens of kilometres.

RIFAN 2 also provides overall network management and cybersecurity incident monitoring capability. This monitoring can take place both from an onshore management and control centre, or locally on board the ships, thus providing the crews with a degree of independence, so that they can make the best use of the network according to the operational situation.

The network will become increasingly dense with installation planned for the Barracuda submarines under construction, for medium-size frigates (FTI programme), which are to be the French Navy's future front-line vessels, as well as for the future replenishment tankers (FLOTLOG programme).

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The RIFAN 2 system is regularly adapted and upgraded, whether in terms of its central architecture or the integration of new means of satellite broadband communications. Similarly, the cybersecurity incident monitoring and detection system will also be upgraded.

<http://www.securecommunications-airbusds.com/>

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### About Airbus

Airbus is a global leader in aeronautics, space and related services. In 2017 it generated revenues of € 59 billion restated for IFRS 15 and employed a workforce of around 129,000. Airbus offers the most comprehensive range of passenger airliners from 100 to more than 600 seats. Airbus is also a European leader providing tanker, combat, transport and mission aircraft, as well as one of the world's leading space companies. In helicopters, Airbus provides the most efficient civil and military rotorcraft solutions worldwide.

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