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PRESS RELEASE

GENERAL ASSEMBLY #2 OF EDF-FUNDED "EDINAF" PROJECT

Brussels, 4th December 2023



One year after the initiation of the "European Digital Naval Foundation" project (EDINAF), funded by the European Commission (EC) under the European Defence Fund (EDF 2021), EDINAF proudly convened its second General Assembly.

Held in Brussels on November 29th and 30th, both in-person and online, the General Assembly brought together the consortium partners, comprising key partners: Navantia, AERTEC, B-COM, CETENA, Damen, Fincantieri, Fincantieri Nextech, Indra, Jotne, Kongsberg, Leonardo, Light Structures, MARIN, MBDA, the Netherlands Defence Academy, the Ministry of Defence of the Netherlands, Naval Group, QRelation, Renk Group, Rheinmetall, RH Marine, SAAB, SEA Europe, SINTEF, SINTEF Ocean, the Spanish Ministry of Defence, the Swedish Ministry of Defence, thyssenkrupp Marine Systems, Thales, TNO, Université de Lorraine, Università degli studi di Genova, and Universidade A Coruna.

During the General Assembly, partners and Ministries of Defence collectively took a significant step forward in advancing the project. In addition to discussing the project's status, the assembly provided an opportunity for all parties to explore and exchange perspectives on the requirements during the technical workshop sessions. More particularly, the partners further established the needs, requirements, capabilities and user stories with the Ministries of Defence, and progressed in the definition of the architecture and digital platform.



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On November 29th, two roundtables were organized to discuss naval combat clouds. Moderated by Christophe Baixas (Naval Group), the EDINAF consortium welcomed Davide Cucino (SEA Naval), Tobias Stais (EDOCC), and Georgios Stamatoukos (European Defence Agency) in the first session, to share their opinion and their expectations about the challenges Europe is facing with Multidomain Clouds.

The second roundtable focused on the role of EDINAF in addressing the challenges mentioned by the first panel. Together, Juan Ignacio Silvera (Navantia and EDINAF Project Coordinator), Francisco Casalduero (DGDEFIS), and LCDR Marie-Louise Verbeek (Ministry of Defence of the Netherlands) highlighted the most important capabilities to focus on in the years to come and how EDINAF will contribute to this development.

The roundtables underscored the importance of dialogue and collaboration among European Defence Fund projects for addressing combat cloud challenges and prioritizing solutions for the naval domain. This crucial moment also provided a prime networking opportunity for the involved stakeholders.

In its concluding remarks, the Spanish Ministry of Defence conveyed its perspectives on the future trajectory of the EDINAF project, stressing that the partners' collective effort to collaborate plays an essential role in the progress of the project and in achieving its expected outcomes.

"One year since its inception, EDINAF second General Assembly stands as a significant milestone in the project. The satisfaction resonates with the accomplished work over the past year and the insights gleaned from these workshops, therefore we are proud to say that the project is well-managed and on track to fulfil all the requirements set forth by both Ministries of Defence and the European Commission." – said Juan Ignacio Silvera, EDINAF's Project Coordinator.



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