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PRESS RELEASE

GENERAL ASSEMBLY #4 OF EDF-FUNDED "EDINAF" PROJECT

La Seyne-sur-Mer, 28th of November, 2024

The partners of the European Digital Naval Foundation (EDINAF) project, funded by the European Commission (EC) under the European Defence Fund (EDF2021), were gathered in La Seyne-sur-Mer, France, for the fourth General Assembly Meeting, from 26th to 28th of November.

The event, hosted by Naval Group, started with a keynote address delivered by Commander Luis Francisco Calviño Garcia, from the Spanish Navy, followed by a keynote from Julien Piel, Technical Director in Naval Group's Digital Systems Development department, and Juan Ignacio Silvera Vez, EDINAF Project Coordinator, from Navantia. In addition, the consortium was honoured to welcome representatives from the Netherlands Ministry of Defence (MoD), the Spanish Navy, the Norwegian Defence Research Establishment (FFI), and the French Directorate for General Armament (DGA) and MoD, besides the Italian Directorate of Naval Armament, who was present remotely.

All the MoD and Navy representatives participated in a round table, increasing the bar for the industry to deliver capabilities faster and in a more agile way. Conclusions where on how the integration of cloud technology in defence operations shall enable for updates to counter new

threats, managing large volumes of data, and enabling agile working through rapid software deployment. Despite challenges such as system integration and data security, the cloud system's continuous deployment and integration (CD/CI) capabilities provide a significant advantage. The continuous support from the MoDs and substantial guidance is key to ensure the effectiveness of these efforts towards future advancements, notably made through the European Defence Fund. The General Assembly featured multiple workshop sessions focused on the Reference Architecture milestones and the Digital Platform. A central topic of discussion was the preparation for the final two General Assemblies, set to take place in Trondheim, Norway, and Ferrol, Spain, with particular attention on the two planned demonstrations. The workshops emphasized aligning use cases, integrating developed requirements into the cloud infrastructure, and practical implementation strategies with the cloud provider.

Beyond the productive sessions, the host, Naval Group, organized cultural activities, including a visit to the National Museum of the French Navy and a guided boat tour of Toulon Bay, where the networking and alignment continued to take place.

In its concluding remarks, the Spanish Navy emphasized that the robust collaboration among EDINAF consortium members is vital to ensuring the project's success and achieving its goals, especially toward its conclusion and the two key upcoming demonstrations showcasing its results.

"*As the project nears its conclusion, we aim to finalize preparations for the two demonstrations in Trondheim and Ferrol while ensuring that the requirements are fully integrated into the cloud infrastructure. Additionally, we are focused on the integration and demonstration through the different use cases. Our strong collaboration within EDINAF will be instrumental in achieving these objectives and in ensuring that the expectations of the Ministries of Defence, and European Commission, are effectively incorporated into the reference architecture.*" – said Juan Ignacio Silvera Vez, EDINAF Project Coordinator.

This General Assembly brought together the EDINAF partners, located across Europe: Navantia (Project Coordinator), AERTEC, B-COM, CETENA, Damen, Fincantieri, Fincantieri NexTech, Indra, Jotne, Kongsberg, Leonardo, Light Structures, MARIN, MBDA, the Netherlands Defence Academy (NLDA – Ministry of Defence of the Netherlands), Naval Group, Naval Group Belgium, QRelation Management Team, Renk Group, Rheinmetall, RH Marine, SAAB, SEA Europe, SINTEF, SINTEF Ocean, thyssenkrupp Marine Systems, Thales Netherlands, TNO, Universita degli studi di Genova, Universidade da Coruna, and Université de Lorraine.

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