



JUNE 2025 – EDINAF NEWSLETTER #5



Dear Reader,

We are very much delighted to introduce the latest edition of the EDINAF Consortium Newsletter. With this short pager, you will be able to grasp the most important updates from the consortium, and more importantly toward the digital reference architecture.

This semester, the **EDINAF** project showed productive and strong collaboration among partners, for example during the face-to-face Executive Board in Sweden this March and the first demonstration at the end of May, which has driven significant progress.

We look forward to building on this momentum in the coming months.

The EDINAF Consortium

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November 2024: EURONAVAL



The EDINAF consortium participated in **Euronaval 2024**, held from 4th to 7th November at Paris Villepinte, France. This major global event, bringing together the naval industry, government representatives, and EU institutions, offered a valuable platform to **promote EDINAF's activities** through a dedicated booth and active participation in key sessions.

Highlights included the EDINAF Project Coordinator joining a panel discussion, organized by the European Commission's DG DEFIS, on "Smartships Techs: Naval Platforms of the Future," alongside the coordinator of the EDF2021 dTHOR Project. In addition, the project's main goals and ambitions were spotlighted during a pitch session led by the Project Coordinator.





November 2024: 4th General Assembly Meeting

From 26th to 28th November, the EDINAF consortium held its **4th General Assembly** in La Seyne-sur-Mer, France, hosted by **Naval Group**. The meeting opened with keynote speeches from representatives of the Spanish Navy, Naval Group, and the EDINAF Project Coordinator, and welcomed delegations from several European Ministries of Defence – from the Netherlands Ministry of Defence, the Spanish Navy, the Italian Navy, the Norwegian Defence Research Establishment (FFI), and the French Directorate for General Armament (DGA) and Ministry of Defence.

This General Assembly centred on aligning project milestones, preparing for the **two final events in Trondheim and Ferrol**, and advancing the integration of use cases and requirements into the cloud infrastructure. A panel discussion, chaired by Ministries of Defence representatives, ensured that national expectations were firmly embedded in the project's reference architecture.

Multiple workshops took place, focusing on practical strategies for the upcoming demonstrations. In addition, 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. In closing, the consortium reaffirmed its commitment to delivering on EDINAF's objectives, with strong cooperation seen as key to the project's success.



“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.”

– Juan Ignacio Silvera Vez, EDINAF Project Coordinator



February 2025: EDINAF's WP8 (Digital Twinning)'s presentation at DTE&AICOMAS Conference

On 18 February, **WP8** (Digital Twinning)'s representative Alberto Rullan Contreras, Navantia, represented the consortium in a mini-symposium which took place during DTE&AICOMAS event (ENSAM, Paris) and addressed enabling technologies for **digital twins** for ships and offshore structures, coordinated by Trond Kvamsdal, SINTEF Digital, and Project Manager of the EDF2021 dTHOR project.

From WP8's perspective, this mini-symposium was particularly fruitful as it enabled to present the work carried out, especially in terms of processes and support to **Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs)**, and to address key aspects, notably on information sharing in the defence industry to enhance development while ensuring security. Ultimately, this mini-symposium was also the opportunity to showcase the great collaboration between EDINAF and dTHOR consortia.

March 2025: EDINAF on Sweden's annual Naval Domain Days hosted by Saab

On March 26th, **Saab** hosted Sweden's annual Naval Domain Days in Stockholm, bringing together industry leaders and governmental organizations within Sweden to collaborate, share ideas, and build a strong national foundation for innovation and growth. **Dr. Frida W. Lindberg** (Saab) presented EDINAF and the Digital Ship concept, generating significant interest and engagement from attendees. Key messages emphasized the **power of European unity** behind a shared vision, mutual support for progress, and the critical need for rapid implementation and flexibility within the digital battlespace. This approach, Dr. Lindberg highlighted, allows for swift adaptation to new challenges and leverages our collective strengths for an optimal outcome and a stronger European Digital Naval Foundation.



March 2025: Executive Board meeting hosted by Saab in Glumslöv, Sweden



On the 11th and 12nd March, Saab hosted one of the biannual **Executive Board meetings** of the project, in Glumslöv, Sweden. This instance focused on the preparation of the key practical and technical aspects of the two final demonstrations, and especially the closest one in time, that will take place in Trondheim, Norway during the 5th General Assembly meeting in May 2025.

April 2025: EDINAF consortium at EDA's Maritime Workshop for “Capability Development Priority Naval Combat & Maritime Interdiction”

by Christophe Baixas

The European Defence Agency (EDA) has issued in 2023 the **Capability Development Priorities** reflecting the changes in the EU's strategic environment as well as lessons observed from Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine.

In this context it is imperative to deliver information warfare capabilities faster using Europe's Defence Technological and Industrial Base (EDTIB). The future naval battlespace calls for greater **collaboration** and information sharing among allies, domains and the wider ecosystem.

The EDINAF project is a major milestone in the development of a collective European military action capability toward Naval Combat and Maritime Interdiction as well as on the building of a future **European Combat Vessel (ECV)**. In the context of a midterm evaluation of the project, the consortium has taken the opportunity of the EDA maritime workshop to share on how we can capitalize on the successes, as well as on the limitations, to perpetuate the defence digital transformation dynamic at EU's level and to show the path for an acceleration in the coming years.



During this workshop in EDA facilities in Brussel, the EDINAF representant has shared consortium's takes on the following issues:

- How to deal with the growing **naval digital systems complexity**
- How to build an effective **European industrial collaboration** to foster competitiveness and innovation integration among European countries
- How to **coordinate** all aspects of such a European megaproject — from the design and engineering to construction and operation — in a **collaborative** manner so to keep costs and schedules and reduce overall risks



This presentation proved to summarize many of the technical issues and initiatives presented earlier by many companies during the event. We made clear that although many representative technologies have the promise to provide increased **effectiveness, efficiency and security**, the integrated employment of naval information-based capabilities remains an enormous engineering and industrial challenge.

As systems advance technologically, their complexity, risk, and development time tend to increase as well, and the main question remains on **the way these advances will be deployed on current and next generation naval surface systems at European level**. By providing insights on this matter (based on an effective digital project and architecture initiative at scale) EDINAF consortium has made clear that answering this question will be pivotal in achieving competitive advantage over adversaries that are moving at fast pace.

It would be foolhardy to think that we can go on developing solutions in isolation of each other. This must be prepared and carefully designed. This presentation during the EDA's Maritime workshop has proven that the EDINAF consortium can provide insights on this matter.

“Building tomorrow naval defence digital initiatives means merging siloes, allies and information through a Multi-Domain Integration model so we can better ensure resilience and diversity in defence. Military, industry, public, private, academia and society are expected to work in harmony to channel groundbreaking solutions towards optimal outcomes. An all-of-ecosystem effort.”





May 2025: 5th General Assembly and Integrated Use Case Demonstration



From May 20th to 22nd, the EDINAF consortium gathered in Trondheim, Norway, for its **fifth General Assembly**. Hosted by SINTEF Ocean, SINTEF Digital, and Kongsberg Defence & Aerospace, the event featured the long-anticipated **Integrated Use Case Demonstration (WP10 to WP15)*** – a major milestone in the project.

High-level representatives from the Ministries of Defence (MoDs) of France, Norway, Germany, the Netherlands, Spain, and Sweden joined the discussions. A dedicated round table tackled key themes such as digital transformation, project expectations, and industrial cooperation.

A highlight of the General Assembly was the **live demonstration of the Digital Reference Architecture** – the result of nearly three years of collaborative development with European MoDs and Navies. While the **main operations were led from Trondheim**, a critical part of the demonstration was **conducted simultaneously from the EDINAF Demonstrator (MVP#2)** based in Madrid, Spain, seamlessly interacting with the **RV Gunnerus and Elly** operating in Trondheim.

The live scenarios included **battle simulations**, **resilience testing**, and **cyber-attack responses**. Attendees also witnessed significant advances in **digital twinning** and **decision support for autonomous systems**.

In addition to the different technical events, the partners were able to visit the SINTEF Ocean's Tyholt laboratory.

* More information about the workpackage breakdown in the EDINAF project can be found at www.edinaf.eu.



This successful demonstration – made possible through **strong coordination between the Demonstrator platform (in Madrid) and physical vessels (RV Gunnerus and Elly)** - proved the ability of the EU's naval and digital industries to integrate independent applications into a unified platform, within a demanding timeframe. It demonstrated tangible progress toward a shared European digital defence architecture.

Finally, the Trondheim event marks a pivotal step in the lead-up to **EDINAF's final demonstration** in Ferrol, Spain.

“This demonstration is the result of intense collaboration across borders and disciplines,” said Juan Ignacio Silvera Vez, Project Coordinator of EDINAF. “It validates our shared vision of a unified digital defence architecture, developed in close dialogue with European Ministries of Defence and Navies and tailored to meet the operational challenges of tomorrow.”





UPCOMING EVENTS

- Beginning of October 2025 – Physical Executive Board meeting to be hosted by Naval Group in France
- 25th-27th November 2025 - EDINAF Final General Assembly meeting and demonstration, Ferrol, Spain



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