

# PRESS RELEASE

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## First sea trial for the FREMM DA *Lorraine*, the tenth and last of the multi-mission frigate series

**On February 22, 2022, Naval Group started the first sea trials of the FREMM DA *Lorraine*, an important step before the frigate's delivery. For several days, the eighth FREMM to be delivered to the French Navy and second with enhanced air defence capabilities (FREMM DA), will undergo sea trials off the coast of Brittany.**

### First sea trials of the last of the French FREMM series

Ordered by the Organisation for Joint Armament Cooperation (OCCAR), on behalf of the French Procurement Agency (DGA) and the French Navy, the FREMM DA *Lorraine* is the eighth and last multi-mission frigate to be built for the French Navy. It is also the second FREMM with enhanced air defence capabilities (FREMM DA).

Two hundred and fifty people are mobilized to prepare this first sea trial. This session will enable the performance of the ship's propulsion and navigation systems to be tested. Several campaigns will then be carried out to test all the systems. FREMM DA *Lorraine* will then be delivered by the end of the year.

Didier Trehin, Naval Group on-board manager for this first campaign, said: "*This first sea trial is a very important moment, especially as this is the last frigate of the FREMM series. This is the first time the ship has been at sea. This milestone also symbolizes three years of preliminary work with our teams and partners. Thanks to exchanges since the beginning of this program in 2005, the FREMM DA Lorraine carries the most recent and efficient technologies on board*".

After being launched in November 2020, the first sea trial of the FREMM DA *Lorraine* is taking place on schedule and in accordance with the company's contractual commitment to deliver the ship in 2022. Naval Group teams and partners have been mobilized to meet this milestone despite the Covid crisis.

The FREMM program proceeds according to the schedule established by the last Military Planning Law (LPM). Seven FREMMs have already been delivered to the French Navy between 2012 and 2021. *Aquitaine* in 2012, *Provence* in 2015, *Languedoc* in 2016, *Auvergne* in April 2017, *Bretagne* in July 2018, *Normandie* in July 2019 and *Alsace* in April 2021. Internationally, the *Mohammed VI* was delivered to Morocco in 2014 and the *Tahya Misr* delivered to Egypt in 2015.

## **FREMM benefited from the program's feedback, from the start of the construction**

With 3,500 hours at sea per year, the FREMMs' level of availability at sea is unmatched and is an important source of information. The permanent dialogue between the navies, the DGA, the OCCAR, as well as the construction and maintenance teams, enables Naval Group to propose technologies adapted to the evolution of its customers' operational needs.

As a result of this operational feedback, the FREMM DA *Lorraine* benefits from the deployment of new functions: enhanced cyber capabilities, deployment of Liaison 22 (NATO's secure digital radio system), reduced width mast, replacement of the optronic artillery fire control by a radar/optronic fire control, or the integration of a tactical table.

## **A polyvalent FREMM that has mobilized all the know-how of Naval Group and its industrial partners**

Multi-mission frigates, designed and built by Naval Group, are polyvalent, stealthy and highly automated ships capable of responding to all types of air, sea, submarine or land threats.

The operational excellence of FREMMs is recognized worldwide, such as by the US Navy, whose 6<sup>th</sup> Fleet has awarded the Hook'em Award to four FREMMs for their excellence in anti-submarine warfare two years in a row.

A multi-mission frigate represents four million hours of work, about half of which benefits the supply chain and local actors. The design, construction and maintenance of FREMMs mobilize two hundred and fifty unique skills, some of which are so specific that they require up to eleven years of training (carpenter-sheet metal worker, hull welder, boilermaker, etc.).

The frigate will be based in Toulon alongside the FREMM DA *Alsace* to provide air defence for major units such as the Charles de Gaulle aircraft carrier or the amphibious helicopter carrier (PHA), as part of a naval or amphibious strike group. The FREMMs with enhanced air capabilities, *Alsace* and *Lorraine*, are thus able to carry out the same anti-submarine warfare missions as the other FREMMs in the series, in addition to their enhanced air capabilities.

The FREMM DA also use the most advanced weapons and equipment systems such as the Herakles multifunction radar supplied by Thales, the Aster 15 and 30 and Exocet MM 40 missiles, the MU 90 torpedoes and three additional Combat Management System Setis® consoles in the "central operations". Like the other FREMMs, the *Lorraine* will carry the NH90 helicopter (Caiman Marine), whose use is supported by the SAMAHE® system supplied by Naval Group.

## **Technical specifications of the FREMM DA *Lorraine***

- Overall length: 142 meters
- Width: 20 meters
- Displacement: 6,000 tons
- Maximum speed: 27 knots
- Manning: 118 people (+ 14 people for the helicopter detachment)
- Accommodation capacity: 165 people
- Range: 6,000 nautical miles at 15 knots

FREMMs with enhanced air defence capabilities (FREMM DA) are capable of deploying:

- 8 Exocet MM40 Block 3 anti-ship missiles
- 32 Aster missiles in Sylver® vertical launch systems
- One 76 mm main gun
- Four 12.7 mm machine guns
- 19 MU90 torpedoes
- One Caiman Marine combat helicopter
- Two Narwhal 20 mm remotely operated guns

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Naval Group is the European leader in naval defence. Naval Group uses its extraordinary know-how, unique industrial resources and capacity to arrange innovative strategic partnerships to meet its customers' requirements. As a system-integrator and prime contractor, the group designs, produces and supports submarines and surface ships. It also supplies services to shipyards and naval bases. Attentive to corporate social responsibility, Naval Group adheres to the United Nations Global Compact. The group reports revenues of 3.3 billion euros and has a workforce of 15,798 (data for 2020).

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