

PRESS KIT

PRODUCTION LAUNCH OF THE NEW-GENERATION AIRCRAFT CARRIER

18 MARCH 2026
NAVAL GROUP - NANTES-INDRET SITE



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"The new-generation aircraft carrier programme is an essential programme that embodies the future of naval combat and French strategic sovereignty. In collaboration with our partners Chantiers de l'Atlantique and TechnicAtome, we are committed to delivering an innovative, high-performance aircraft carrier capable of projecting French power across the world. Today, Naval Group is ready and fully mobilised to implement this major programme, which will provide the French Navy with exceptional projection capabilities on all the seas of the world by 2038."

Pierre Éric Pommellet,
Chairman and Chief
Executive Officer of
Naval Group

"This challenge forms part of the already very rich history of French nuclear propulsion. It opens up new horizons and is a programme with major technological and industrial stakes. TechnicAtome teams are enthusiastic and eager to contribute by building the nuclear reactors for this new aircraft carrier, the most powerful ever designed by France, representing a success for the French Navy and for the country as a whole."

Loïc Rocard,
Chairman and Chief Executive
Officer of TechnicAtome

"In Saint-Nazaire, our teams and facilities are preparing to welcome this strategic programme. It builds on our expertise in the construction of very large, complex platforms serving maritime and sovereignty objectives. Today, we are seeing the first components of the nuclear reactor of the new-generation aircraft carrier, and from 2031 onwards, the ship's extraordinary silhouette will gradually take shape in our workshops and building docks at Chantiers de l'Atlantique."

Laurent Castaing,
Chief Executive Officer of
Chantiers de l'Atlantique



THE NEW- GENERATION AIRCRAFT CARRIER PROGRAMME, A KEY STRATEGIC TOOL FOR PROJECTING POWER IN SUPPORT OF FRANCE'S SOVEREIGNTY

The production launch of the new-generation aircraft carrier, announced by the President of the French Republic at the end of December 2025, is a major milestone for France.

A true strategic tool for projecting French power, the new-generation aircraft carrier will succeed the *Charles de Gaulle* aircraft carrier in 2038.

The industrial contractors leading the programme, Naval Group, Chantiers de l'Atlantique and TechnicAtome are already fully committed to this major programme for the benefit of the French Navy. It combines technological innovation, expertise, industrial stakes and national sovereignty, under the project management of the French Defence Procurement Agency (DGA) and the French Alternative Energies and Atomic Energy Commission (CEA).

Over nearly 20 years, the new-generation aircraft carrier programme mobilises a wide network of manufacturers within the French defence technological and industrial base, including Dassault Aviation, MBDA and Thales, bringing major benefits to the national economy, employment, innovation and R&D, while strengthening France's strategic autonomy.

A VESSEL COMBINING EXCELLENCE AND INNOVATION THAT WILL TAKE OVER FROM THE *CHARLES DE GAULLE*

To guarantee France's sovereignty and provide the French Navy with the means to project its power, the new-generation aircraft carrier will incorporate major innovations:

- A new-generation nuclear propulsion thanks to its two K22 reactors, which build on previous generations whilst delivering breakthrough performance in terms of power, energy and availability;
- Interoperable aviation systems equipped with electromagnetic catapults capable of launching all types of aircrafts (planes and drones);
- A modular and resilient combat system able to adapt to evolving threats and to rapidly integrate technological innovations;
- Increased carrying capacity, thanks to a 40% increase in space compared to the *Charles de Gaulle* aircraft carrier;
- The integration of the ASN-4G missile, enabling the projection of nuclear deterrence;
- A data centric, modular and natively cyber-secure digital architecture, capable of integrating artificial intelligence, collaborative combat and future effectors as innovations emerge;
- Redesigned living quarters to improve living crew conditions.

The industrial partners have worked according to an optimal and robust schedule, which enables us to meet the deadlines for this phase of the ship's construction.

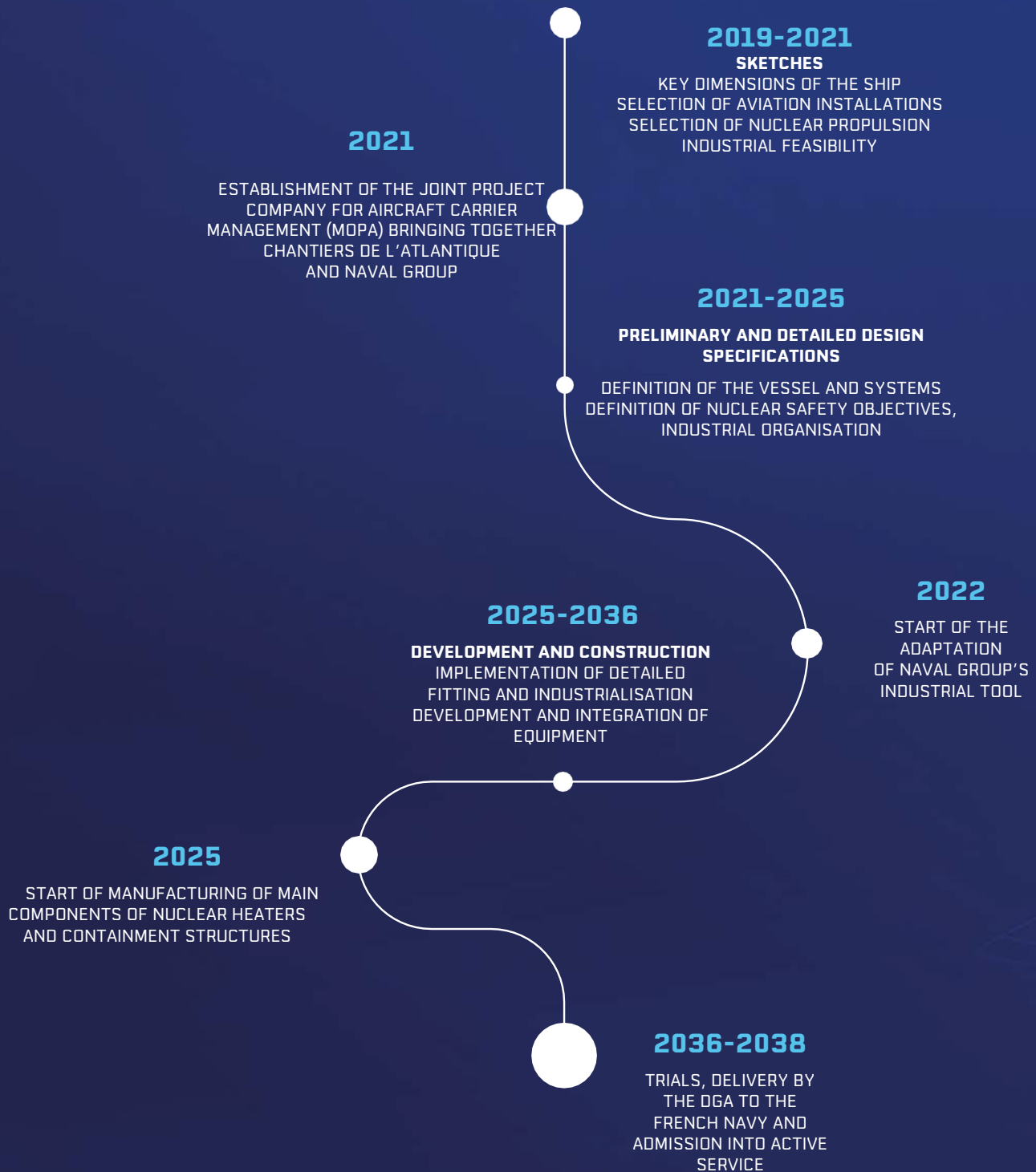


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"The aircraft carrier is a sovereign instrument of power that demonstrates a State's political determination. It embodies both a tool for power projection and the expression of a strong political will, thanks to specific capabilities such as air-sea superiority, strike capability and, above all, the ability to access maritime spaces and operation areas."

Admiral Vaujour,
Chief of Staff of the French
Navy

2026: PRODUCTION LAUNCH OF THE NEW-GENERATION AIRCRAFT CARRIER



AN EXCEPTIONAL VESSEL

- **Total length:** 310 meters
- **Total width:** 90 meters
- **Maximum speed:** 27 knots
- **Full load displacement:** 78,000 tonnes
- **Composition of the airborne group:** 30 next-generation combat aircraft, 2 air surveillance aircrafts, 6 helicopters, drones of all types
- **Energy-propulsion:** 2 K22 nuclear reactors, 2 energy conversion groups, 3 shaft lines and propellers
- **Flight deck area:** approx. 17,000 sqm
- **Crew:** 2,000 persons on board (crew, air group, general staff)
- **Service life:** approx. 45 years



FOCUS ON NAVAL GROUP'S SITE IN NANTES-INDRET

Naval Group's site in Nantes-Indret is a key facility for the engineering of the new-generation aircraft carrier, particularly in terms of its nuclear aspects.

It is at the Nantes-Indret site that industrialisation studies and the first components of the main systems of the K22 nuclear reactors were carried out. Reactor flange, pump elbows, tube plates, these initial components are essential for the operation of the reactor, which was developed by TechnicAtome.

It is then at this site that the industrialisation and assembly of the components will be carried out.

Nantes-Indret will also serve as the reference site for the production of the turbo-generators units.

To support the site in this ramp-up and ensure the successful delivery of the programme, a major modernisation of the infrastructure is underway.





A LARGE-SCALE INDUSTRIAL PROGRAMME BENEFITING THE ECONOMY IN EVERY REGION OF FRANCE

The new-generation aircraft carrier programme, the result of cutting-edge industrial expertise, benefits the French economy as a whole, as well as numerous SMEs and mid-sized companies working alongside Naval Group, TechnicAtome and Chantiers de l'Atlantique.

To ensure delivery in 2038, the entire French defence technological and industrial base is being mobilised. The construction of the new-generation aircraft carrier will support thousands of jobs across the country until its commissioning, with an average of 8,800 jobs* over the 2026-2038 period, and up to 14,000 jobs* at the peak of activity.

The Pays de la Loire, Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur and Brittany regions will be particularly involved throughout the programme. They account for around 70% of the program's socio-economic impact, through the sites of Naval Group, Chantiers de l'Atlantique and TechnicAtome, as well as through various SMEs and mid-size companies.

To support the ramp-up of the programme and the associated jobs, a major modernisation of the infrastructure and industrial facilities is planned across various sites of Naval Group, Chantiers de l'Atlantique and TechnicAtome.

Over 90% of the purchases required for the programme will be made in France. These purchases will be sourced from a network of around 800 suppliers, including more than 600 SMEs and mid-sized companies, reflecting significant territorial economic and sovereignty stakes.

"Aubert & Duval, through its plants in Firminy, Les Ancizes and Issoire Interforge, is proud to be actively contributing to the French new-generation aircraft carrier propulsion programme, bringing its metallurgical expertise to strategic components for nuclear propulsion systems. This collaboration is part of our long-standing commitment to supporting national sovereignty in the naval sector."

Stéphane Delhopital, Senior Sales Manager at Aubert & Duval

"CIMPA's participation, as the PLM subsidiary of the SOPRA STERIA Group, in the new-generation aircraft carrier propulsion programme highlights our expertise in the digital transformation of major industrial programmes and reaffirms our position as a sovereign partner to our strategic clients. This partnership also aligns with our regional development strategy, supporting proximity to Naval Group's engineering and manufacturing centres."

Pascal Mottet, Chief Executive Officer of CIMPA

*Direct, indirect and induced jobs.

14,000

jobs at the programme's peak

Over 90%

of purchases made in France

800

suppliers involved

Over 600

SMEs and mid-sized companies

Over 200

trades and areas of expertise mobilised

THE NEW-GENERATION AIRCRAFT CARRIER PROGRAMME MOBILISES THE FRENCH DEFENCE TECHNOLOGICAL AND INDUSTRIAL BASE

Over 90%
OF PURCHASES MADE IN FRANCE

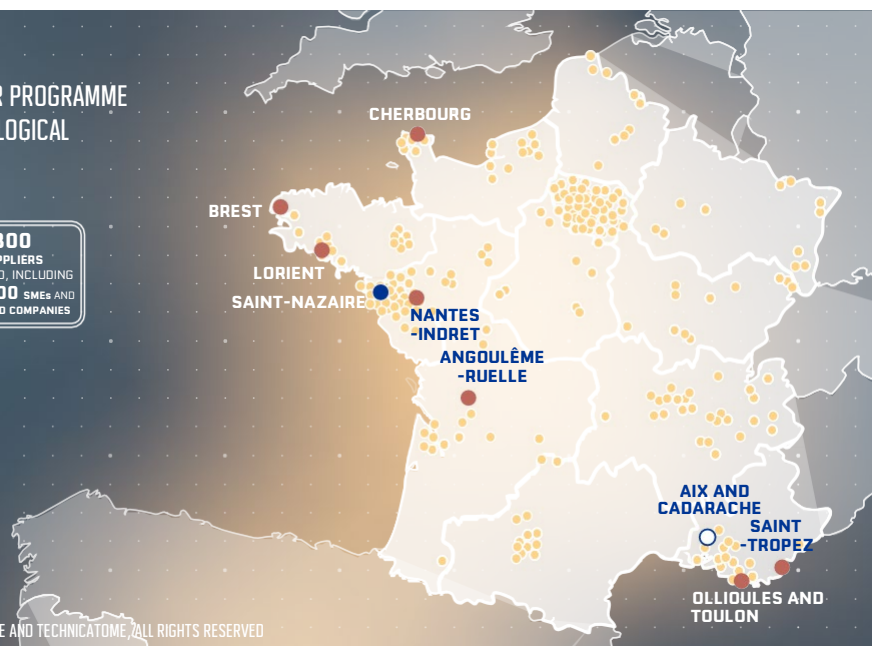
800
SUPPLIERS INVOLVED, INCLUDING OVER 600 SMEs AND MID-SIZED COMPANIES

COMPANIES ALREADY COMMITTED OR IN THE PROCESS OF FULFILLING COMMITMENTS OVER THE 2019-2032 PERIOD

THE DELIVERY OF THE PROGRAM IS THE RESULT OF THE CUTTING-EDGE INDUSTRIAL EXPERTISE OF THREE KEY PLAYERS WITHIN THE FRENCH DEFENCE TECHNOLOGICAL AND INDUSTRIAL BASE, WHOSE EXPERTISE IS RECOGNISED WORLDWIDE

- NAVAL GROUP
- TECHNICATOME
- CHANTIERS DE L'ATLANTIQUE

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SOVEREIGN SKILLS MOBILISED THROUGH TRAINING PROGRAMMES THROUGHOUT FRANCE

The programme requires the mobilisation, maintenance and renewal of key skills within the industrial base in the construction of large military vessels, nuclear propulsion systems and aviation systems, across the whole of France.

Over 200 unique trades and areas of expertise are being mobilised to meet the technological challenges of the new-generation aircraft carrier.

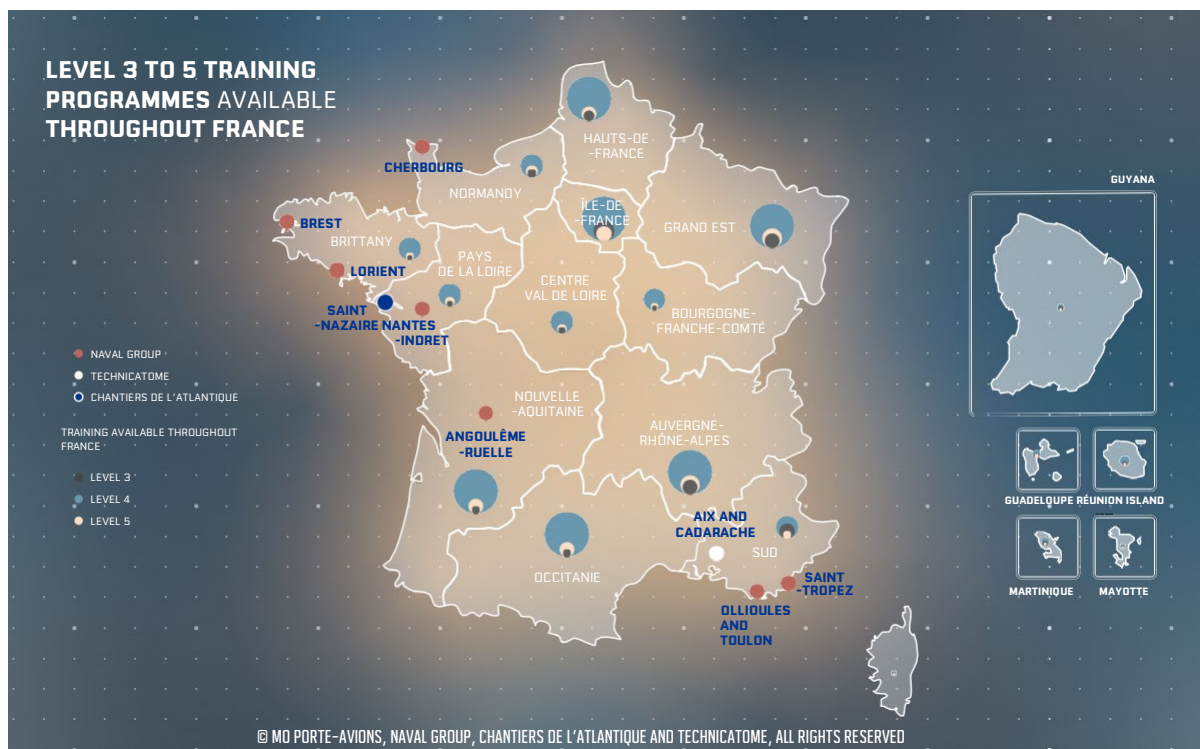
This major programme will also drive the development of cutting-edge sovereign technological innovations, particularly in nuclear propulsion, future combat systems and drone integration.

In addition to the work led by industrial partners, numerous academic institutions and research organisations are contributing innovations for the new-generation aircraft carrier.

These key skills and innovations developed as part of the new-generation aircraft carrier are sustainable and will benefit France's future major naval programmes.

The new-generation aircraft carrier programme provides a significant opportunity for training young people, allowing them to develop unique skills in support of a national-interest project.

Trainings programmes from vocational certificates to doctoral degrees are available through professional high schools, higher education institutions, research organisations and universities across the country.



THE NEW-GENERATION AIRCRAFT CARRIER PROGRAMME MOBILISES NUMEROUS TRADES ACROSS OUR INDUSTRIAL SITES

LEVEL 5, 6 AND 7 TRAINING AVAILABLE THROUGHOUT FRANCE



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"The new-generation aircraft carrier programme serves as a reminder of how major national strategic projects rely on scientific, technological and industrial expertise of the very highest standard. At Centrale Nantes, we train engineers capable of meeting these challenges thanks to rigorous training, closely linked to research and innovation. This challenge resonates particularly with our new specialist engineering programme in ocean engineering, launched in September 2025, which prepares students to work in highly technical maritime and industrial environments. The fact that the skills developed by our students may one day contribute to such a transformative programme is both a source of pride and a great responsibility."

Jean-Baptiste Avriillier, Director of Centrale Nantes

"The Institut Polytechnique de Paris and its member schools (École polytechnique, ENSTA Paris, École nationale des ponts et chaussées, ENSAE Paris, Télécom Paris and Télécom SudParis) are historically dedicated to protecting the country's sovereignty. They train young people with a very high level of scientific expertise for the public and private sectors, enabling them to understand the major technological transitions and disruptions currently underway and those yet to come. Two of them maintain close ties with the Ministry for the Armed Forces, and IP Paris has developed two interdisciplinary centres (CIEDS – Interdisciplinary Centre for Defence and Security Studies and CIMO – Interdisciplinary Centre for Seas and Oceans) to strengthen defence innovation. This commitment is also reflected in a particularly close relationship with the defence industry, notably Naval Group, with whom we have launched a chair aimed at building expertise in the architecture of complex systems. This enables our students to become more aware of these challenges and to participate in research projects identified by our partners."

Thierry Coulhon,
Chairman of the Executive Board of the Institut Polytechnique de Paris

A COLLECTIVE ADVENTURE: NAVAL GROUP, CHANTIERS DE L'ATLANTIQUE AND TECHNICATOME, UNDER THE PROJECT MANAGEMENT OF THE DGA AND THE CEA



The role of Naval Group

Naval Group is the lead designer of the armed vessel. The company is also responsible for the aircraft launch systems (including catapults and arresting wires), the combat system, the navigation system, the electrical power generation system (using nuclear steam), the production of nuclear reactor sub-assemblies, the integration of these reactors into the ship, and testing. All nine of Naval Group's industrial sites in France are all mobilised.



The role of Chantiers de l'Atlantique

Chantiers de l'Atlantique is responsible for the naval architecture and the construction of major powered platform systems: the hull, electric propulsion, crew facilities (accommodation, catering, hospital, entertainment, waste treatment), manoeuvring systems, auxiliary systems (fire-fighting, compressed air, fresh water, etc.) and platform testing. Chantiers de l'Atlantique has a unique and highly capable industrial infrastructure for the construction of large civil and military vessels, which will be specifically adapted to the requirements of the aircraft carrier.



The role of TechnicAtome

TechnicAtome is the designer and contractor for the nuclear reactors, responsible for their design, construction, integration and commissioning on board, and also for the manufacture of nuclear fuel. Under its oversight, Naval Group carries out the industrialisation studies and the production of the main reactor components.

WE DELIVER **FRANCE** ITS **POWER** AT SEA



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INDUSTRIAL CONTRACTORS

M9 PORTE-AVIONS
NAVAL GROUP - CHANTIERS DE L'ATLANTIQUE

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