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Oggetto : FINCANTIERI - ORIZZONTE SISTEMI NAVALI
SIGNS €3.7 BILLION CONTRACT FOR TWO
“DDX” DESTROYERS FOR THE ITALIAN
NAVY

Testo del comunicato

Vedi allegato



Orizzonte Sistemi Navali



FINCANTIERI

LEONARDO

ORIZZONTE SISTEMI NAVALI SIGNS €3.7 BILLION CONTRACT FOR TWO “DDX” DESTROYERS FOR THE ITALIAN NAVY

*Contracts worth approximately €1.8 billion to Fincantieri and approximately €1.7 billion to Leonardo
Fincantieri to act as platform system integrator*

Genoa/Trieste/Rome, 24 September 2026 – Orizzonte Sistemi Navali (OSN), a joint venture between Fincantieri (51%) and Leonardo (49%), has signed a contract with OCCAR (Organisation Conjointe de Coopération en matière d’Armement) with a total value of approximately €3.7 billion, of which approximately €1.3 billion is in options, for the development, production, logistic studies and Initial In Service Support (ISS) of two new-generation DDX destroyers for the Italian Navy.

As part of the programme, in the coming weeks OSN will enter into sub-supply contracts with Fincantieri and Leonardo, respectively worth approximately €1.8 billion (of which approximately €800 million in options) and approximately €1.7 billion (of which approximately €480 million in options).

The signing marks the official launch of one of the most significant programmes for the future of Italy’s naval defence capabilities and introduces a new generation of units designed to operate in maritime scenarios characterised by increasing complexity, rapid technological evolution and ever-greater integration across the different operational domains.

The DDX programme is set to redefine the Italian Navy’s capability profile in the field of air and missile defence through a significant generational leap involving both the naval platform – designed and developed by Fincantieri as system integrator, together with its increasingly advanced digitalisation – and the combat system, designed and developed by Leonardo.

The new ships will be designed to operate within highly interconnected multinational forces and will feature high levels of digitalisation, automation and integration among sensors, weapon systems, multi-domain command and control systems, and platform management systems. The combat system architecture will also be developed to ensure high levels of interoperability and information sharing and management.

Key innovations envisaged for the platform include a DC power sub-network with its associated energy storage system, an innovative stabilisation system integrated with the steering system, new algorithms and methodologies for calculating thermal and electrical balances, and further digital developments of the Ship Management System.

On the combat system side, thanks to the new-generation SADO 5 C5I, a high-power, fully digital S-band AESA radar and MBDA’s weapon system, the DDX unit will feature an unprecedented IAMD (Integrated Air & Missile Defence) capability against missile, ballistic and

hypersonic threats, ensuring the full multi-domain interoperability that lies at the core of the technology underpinning Leonardo's Michelangelo project.

The two units will be built by Fincantieri and Leonardo, through OSN, leveraging design, engineering and production expertise developed over decades of leadership in the design and construction of technologically advanced naval vessels. Delivery of the first and second units is scheduled for 2033 and 2035, respectively.

Pierroberto Folgiero, Chief Executive Officer and General Manager of Fincantieri, said: *"The DDX programme represents a strategic milestone for Fincantieri and for Italy's national defence industry. It is one of the most significant naval programmes launched in Italy in recent years and confirms Fincantieri's role as an industrial and technological reference point in the design and integration of complex naval systems. With DDX, we are further strengthening our leadership in the naval defence sector and investing in the development of expertise, technologies and the supply chain, helping to consolidate Italy's industrial and technological sovereignty and the country's competitiveness in the European naval defence sector."*

Lorenzo Mariani, Chief Executive Officer and General Manager of Leonardo, said: *"Taking part in this programme – which is set to establish new standards in naval defence capabilities – confirms the Italian Navy's confidence in Leonardo's technologies, which are capable of meeting the need to operate in an integrated manner across different domains and in complex scenarios. Today more than ever, it is essential to rely on multi-domain systems. Leonardo's continuous investments in this direction have enabled the development of digital and system architectures that integrate capabilities designed to ensure effective assessment of scenarios and speed in decision-making processes throughout the entire chain of command. With these two new-generation units, the Armed Force will be able to rely on naval platforms offering advanced operational performance and capable of addressing a broad spectrum of threats. The important result achieved with the signing of this contract is also further evidence of how Italy's national defence industry, represented in this case by Leonardo and Fincantieri, can, by working in synergy, deliver innovative and strategic expertise, helping us move towards greater technological autonomy and contributing to the growth of Italy and Europe."*

Giovanni Sorrentino, Chief Executive Officer of Orizzonte Sistemi Navali, said: *"With the DDX programme, Italy is making a generational leap in its maritime defence capabilities and strengthening a strategic asset that involves the entire national system. This programme represents much more than the construction of two new naval units: it is the result of an extraordinary synergy among Italy's industrial excellence, the Defence sector – and in particular the Italian Navy – and the international procurement agency OCCAR, bringing together innovation, expertise and strategic vision. Today's signing marks the launch of a programme of major importance for the entire Defence sector, capable of generating significant industrial and technological benefits for the national supply chain, consolidating expertise, skilled employment and innovative capabilities that represent a strategic asset for the country's future."*

The two ships to be built by Fincantieri represent the evolution and replacement of the Horizon-class destroyers. The 180-metre-long DDX platform, with a displacement of 13,500 tonnes, a range of 4,000 nautical miles and a crew of 251, combines innovation in naval engineering, digital technologies and electronics. A true system of systems, it is capable of delivering large-scale defence and deterrence capabilities, while enabling the surface domain to converge with the underwater domain.

Equipped with an electronic brain that makes the ship “thinking”, the DDX embodies the Navis Sapiens concept developed by Fincantieri: a digital ship capable of intelligently collecting, correlating and leveraging data generated by all onboard systems, transforming it into information useful for operational decision-making, technical management and support throughout the entire lifecycle. With an open and scalable design, the platform can integrate new functionalities and emerging technologies, overcoming the obsolescence issues affecting technologies in the naval market.

Navis Sapiens’ connectivity with shore enables the creation of a Digital Ecosystem (Fincantieri Digital Ecosystem) for the Italian Navy, interconnecting the Digital Ship with the Digital Naval Base and bringing together distributed data and capabilities, data sharing for predictive maintenance and digital logistic support, as well as mission information made immediately available onboard in secure conditions. All of this delivers significant benefits in terms of improved mission readiness, increased operational availability, supply chain responsiveness, accelerated crew rotation, more efficient resolution of issues, and interoperability across different domains.

At a speed of 15 knots, thanks to an innovative digital backbone developed by Fincantieri, each ship will be capable of managing unmanned assets such as underwater and surface drones in an integrated manner, strengthening capabilities for detection, discovery and protection against aerial threats, including ballistic threats, as well as surface and underwater threats. At the same time, it will optimise consumption across both the ship’s propulsion and electrical systems and deliver unprecedented advanced connectivity.

With the DDX programme, Italy’s naval and defence industry is preparing to introduce a technologically advanced platform designed to ensure that the Italian Navy has the operational capabilities required for future scenarios and plays a leading role in national and multinational naval operations. The programme will also contribute to strengthening the pool of expertise, technologies and strategic industrial capabilities developed across the national supply chain.

For Fincantieri and Leonardo, their respective sub-supply contracts with OSN constitute related-party transactions of greater significance. Both transactions have been defined in compliance with the applicable regulations and benefit from the procedural exemption provided for transactions with subsidiaries (including jointly controlled subsidiaries), pursuant to the applicable regulations and the respective procedures adopted by the companies.

Orizzonte Sistemi Navali is an Italian company specialized in the design and integration of complex naval systems for the defense sector. With over 20 years of experience, the Company operates as a Whole Warship System Integrator, providing multidisciplinary expertise throughout the ship’s entire life cycle, from design and construction to logistics support and the development of technologically advanced naval systems. The Company is Prime Contractor and Whole Warship Design Authority for major national and international production and logistics support programs. It is owned by Fincantieri (51%) and Leonardo (49%), the two leading Italian industrial groups operating worldwide in the defense sector, bringing together their expertise and excellence to support innovation and the competitiveness of the Italian naval shipbuilding industry.

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Fincantieri is one of the world's leading shipbuilding companies, the only one active in all areas of high-tech shipbuilding. It is a leader in the construction and transformation of cruise, military and offshore vessels in the oil & gas and wind power sectors, as well as in the production of systems and components, after-sales services and ship-furnishing solutions. Thanks to the skills it has developed in the management of complex challenges, the Group has completed a number of world-class infrastructure projects and is a leading player in digital technology, cybersecurity, electronics and advanced systems. With over 230 years of history and more than 7,000 ships built, Fincantieri maintains its know-how and management centers in Italy, where it employs 10,000 workers and creates around 90,000 jobs, doubling the employment figure worldwide thanks to a production network of 18 shipyards operating on three continents employing over 21,000 direct workers.

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Leonardo is an international industrial group that develops multi-domain technological capabilities for global security. A key player in the major strategic programmes in Aerospace, Defence and Security, it employs over 62,000 people worldwide and operates in the Electronics, Helicopters, Aircraft, Cyber & Security and Space sectors. The company has a significant industrial presence in Italy, the United Kingdom, Poland and the United States, and is active in 150 countries also through subsidiaries, joint ventures and investees. Leonardo is a technological and industrial partner to Governments, Defence Administrations, Institutions and businesses. Listed on the Milan Stock Exchange (LDO), in 2025 Leonardo recorded new orders of €23.8 billion, an order backlog of €46.6 billion and consolidated revenues of €19.5 billion. Included in the MIB ESG Index, the company has also been part of the Dow Jones Sustainability Indices (DJSI) since 2010.

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