

## Naval Group proposes local construction of three additional *Kimon* class (FDI HN) frigates for the Hellenic Navy

While Greece has already begun negotiations with France's Naval Group to acquire a fourth *Belharra*-type or *Kimon*-class (FDI HN) frigate, Naval Group has recently proposed the local construction of three additional *Kimon*-class (FDI HN) frigates for the Hellenic Navy, complementing the four already planned for acquisition. The construction of the fourth frigate is set to conclude soon.

Naval Group's offer presents an opportunity for Greece to modernize its navy, enhance its defense capabilities, and boost its defense industry while strengthening its ties with France and contributing to European defense resilience.

Naval Group's proposal to expand Greece's naval fleet is a strategic move aimed at bolstering French-Greek defense ties while significantly enhancing Greece's domestic defense and shipbuilding capabilities.

Naval Group intends to transfer cutting-edge technology and expertise to Greek shipyards, including Skaramangas Shipyards and METKA, by providing training at their Excellence and Innovation Centers in Lorient and Toulon-Ollioules. This will facilitate the establishment of a robust domestic shipbuilding sector capable of constructing advanced frigates.

Skaramangas Shipyards, which has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Naval Group, will upgrade its infrastructure to handle the construction of these high-tech vessels. This aligns with Greece's long-term goal of boosting its defense industry and reducing reliance on foreign imports.

Acquiring a homogeneous fleet of FDI HN frigates will simplify logistics, maintenance, and training, improving operational efficiency and reducing costs.

The project will bring substantial benefits to the Greek defense sector, potentially creating thousands of jobs and stimulating local economic growth.

By building advanced naval vessels locally, Greece can take a significant step towards industrial independence in defense manufacturing. This would enhance national economy and provide greater flexibility in defense procurement.

The initiative positions Greece as a key partner for Naval Group in Europe, strengthening the European defense landscape and contributing to the ReArm Europe initiative. Greece could also become a critical player in future FDI frigate production for other countries.

This partnership would reinforce Europe's defense autonomy, ensuring that European nations are less reliant on non-European military suppliers, particularly in a time of increasing geopolitical tensions.

The FDI HN frigates are equipped with advanced capabilities, including top-tier anti-submarine warfare (ASW) systems and a formidable air defense suite, making them a strong asset for Greece's naval forces. Each frigate carries up to 32 ASTER 30 SAMs and 21 RAM SAMs, providing robust protection against a variety of threats.



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