

Sandown Class receives enhanced Sonar 2093 gyro system

IXSEA is pleased to announce a gyro sensor upgrade to enhance the performance of the Thales 2093 sonar system currently fitted to the Royal Navy's Sandown Class vessels.

As part of an existing contract with the Ministry of Defence, Thales UK is responsible for the in-service support of all Royal Navy major sonar systems, including the 2093 variable depth minehunting system.

As the Sandown Class 2093 sonar gyro system required replacement, the sonars are being upgraded with IXSEA's state of the art Fibre Optic Gyros (FOG) to improve reliability; this move has had the added benefit to the Royal Navy of significantly improving the 2093 bearing accuracy.

HMS Pembroke was the first vessel to be fitted with the new gyro heading and attitude sensor. The system has now been approved for fitting to the other seven Sandowns following extensive trials at the NATO Fleet Operational Readiness Accuracy Checking (FORACS) range in Crete.

Thales's requirement was for a solid state, small and robust sensor to be fitted within the highly restricted space envelope of the 2093 sonar tow body. Fibre Optic Gyro-based technology is uniquely suited to the application being small, very robust, highly accurate and capable of stand-alone operation.

David Cunningham, IXSEA's Marine Sales Director, said: "It's great to hear this system has now been approved by Thales and the Royal Navy under the demanding testing environment at FORACS. IXSEA are delighted to add the UK Royal Navy as a user of the company's Fibre Optic Gyros."

Notes to editors:

IXSEA is supplying a number of AHRS-120 units to Thales UK for integration within the 2093 Sonar installed aboard the Royal Navy's eight Sandown Class MCMVs.

IXSEA's AHRS-120 is a version of the company's PHINS inertial navigation system modified for the specific application.

About IXSEA

The IXSEA Group is the world leader in Fibre Optic Gyroscope technology. Combining excellence in innovative design and technology, our teams design, execute and maintain a complete range of gyroscopes, navigation units, acoustic positioning systems, magnetometers, sediment sounders, acoustic releases and sonars. With a presence on all five continents, the Group has over 400 customers of reference in the scientific, offshore oil, construction and defense sectors on land, at sea, in the air and in space. The IXSEA Group has generated annual sales of €38 million in 2008.

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