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MANGROVE advances NATO’s vision for an integrated underwater battlespace

The Saab-led MANGROVE consortium has successfully completed Phase 1 of the Allied Underwater Battlespace Mission Network (AUWB-MN), delivering a major milestone in NATO’s ambition to establish a secure, interoperable and resilient mission network for the underwater battlespace.

Bringing together expertise from industry, academia and defence specialists from around the world, the MANGROVE consortium has spent the past year developing the architectural, technical and governance foundations required to enable future multinational underwater battlespace operations.

As the strategic importance of the underwater domain grows, the ability to seamlessly and securely integrate crewed and uncrewed systems and maintain situational awareness across multinational operations has become increasingly vital.

AUWB-MN is designed to allow nations to share information, coordinate assets and operate as an integrated force regardless of the technology being used. Rather than relying on bespoke integrations between individual systems, AUWB-MN defines common standards and security principles that will allow systems to integrate more rapidly and effectively.

David Burton, Project Director, NATO Antisubmarine Warfare Barrier Smart Defence Initiative, said: “As the underwater battlespace becomes increasingly critical to Allied security, NATO must be able to connect platforms, systems and nations through a common operational framework. The delivery of Phase 1 by the MANGROVE consortium is a significant achievement, establishing the architectural foundations for a future mission network that will enhance interoperability, accelerate innovation and strengthen collective maritime capability across the Alliance.”

Dr Frida Lindberg, Co-Chair of the MANGROVE consortium and a Business Director at Saab, said, “This milestone demonstrates what can be achieved when partners from across the NATO community work towards a common objective. We have laid the groundwork for a future underwater battlespace mission network that is resilient, scalable and technology-agnostic, creating the foundations for enhanced situational awareness, greater operational agility and more effective multinational cooperation beneath the surface.”

This first phase also established the foundations for a future Test and Reference Environment that will form the basis for the next stage of the project, supporting future experimentation, capability development, compliance assessment and operational exercises.

The MANGROVE consortium is led by Saab's business area Naval, with CETENA and IDS of the Fincantieri Group, FlySight, GraalTech, Miraya, Saab UK, S2IX and the University of Plymouth.

Contact

Saab Press Centre
+46 (0)734 180 018
presscentre@saabgroup.com

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Saab AB (publ)
SE-581 88 Linköping, Sweden
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