

Press Information

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Converteam to equip a third Landing Helicopter Dock for the French Navy

The Converteam – Rolls-Royce Consortium has just been awarded an order by STX Europe to supply electric propulsion systems on the “BPC3”, a third Landing Helicopter Dock (LHD) for the French Navy. The new LHD is a sister ship of the first two ones, the Mistral and the Tonnerre that were also fitted with Mermaid™ electric propulsion, in service since 2006 and 2007 respectively.

Converteam, leader of the Consortium, will supply two 7MW - 156rpm synchronous propulsion motors fed by synchro-converters, propulsion transformers, harmonic filters and an upgraded remote propulsion control system. Rolls-Royce will supply the mechanical parts, mainly the pod housing, the propeller and the steering system and final assembly will take place at Converteam’s Rotating Machines factory in Nancy (France). The ship shall be transferred from STX Europe Saint Nazaire shipyard during summer 2011 to its Toulon harbor where it is to be commissioned by the French Navy in Spring 2012.

To optimize both investment and operating costs and to reduce the delivery time, the French DGA (Direction Générale pour l’Armement) has decided to equip the vessel with the same sea-proven technology that has been implemented on the Mistral and Tonnerre. A fourth LHD unit to be built by STX with the same electrical propulsion solution by the Consortium is under discussion.

Jean-Charles Mercier, Marine Division Director in Converteam, in Belfort, said:

“Of course, this new order is a very good news for Converteam and confirms a long-term and close partnership with STX.”

About Converteam

Converteam Group is a world leader in power conversion engineering. Building on over a century of experience, it is firmly placed at the leading edge of technology and innovation with a global reputation for excellence in the conversion of electrical energy. Converteam develops and provides solutions built around three core components: rotating machines, drives and process automation. Serving specialized sectors as well as its core markets in Marine, Oil & Gas and Offshore, Energy and Industry, its 5,300 staff members provide power conversion solutions worldwide. At year-end 08, the Converteam sales totaled EUR 1,099,000,000. In Marine, Converteam is a major player in electric propulsion, dynamic positioning and automation systems which are used for merchant - mainly cruise ships and LNG carriers - naval and offshore vessels applications.

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