

Press Release, 2021, 8th June

The French Navy's TRIMARAN III CONTRACT, which relies on CLS, mobilizes more than 300 satellites to monitor the French maritime space.

With more than 11 million km² of Exclusive Economic Zone, France, having the world's second largest maritime area, must meet challenges on all the world's seas in order to guarantee the sovereignty of its waters and ensure the safety of its nationals and resources. The fight against illegal fishing, illicit trafficking, protection and security of shipping lanes, pollution control, search and rescue on the high seas are all missions carried out on a daily basis by the French Navy.



How do we fulfill such a mission?

To provide its maritime surveillance service by satellite, the French Navy now calls on CLS, a subsidiary of CNES (French Space Agency) and CNP, which has deployed an unprecedented system based on multi-sensor satellite data as part of its TRIMARAN III services.

No fewer than 300 satellites are now available to the French Navy to monitor and ensure the safety of activities at sea: a first!

By combining satellite imagery, ship identification data (satellite and terrestrial AIS), satellite RF detections, a commercial database and new information technologies (Machine Learning and Artificial Intelligence), CLS is equipping the French Navy with one of the most advanced systems of the world, offering near real-time coverage and surveillance of maritime areas.



Together, CLS and the French Navy are writing a new chapter in maritime surveillance and information awareness.

A unique GIS platform for the control and analysis of maritime information.

The service provided by CLS complements the range of resources already deployed by the French Navy and is directly integrated into its operational activities.

The service, which runs from 2021 to 2025, will increase the effectiveness of operations related to the French government's action at sea (State's action at sea, 'Action de l'Etat en Mer'-AEM) and the maritime homeland defense of the territory (maritime defense of the territory, 'Défense maritime du territoire' -DMT) on all the world's oceans.

Through a unique platform, MAS, (Maritime Awareness System), each Maritime Zone Command and other entities of the French Navy will have access 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to a complete analysis system and to an acquisition capacity in satellite imagery and RF data of nearly 300 satellites: a FIRST.



At any time of the day or night, the MAS solution will enable Navy users to obtain nearreal-time information on the entire globe (ship positions, ship detection and identification, navigation history, etc.).

In addition, CLS teams with expertise in maritime intelligence and satellite data analysis will provide detailed analysis reports on demand, offering additional expertise in support of maritime operations.

A complementary analysis service.



The TRIMARAN III service opens up a new field of possibility: a unique platform combining a query creation portal and a maritime situation analysis tool, access to new analysis services (e.g., monitoring maritime activities in polar zones), access to new radar and optical satellite imagery constellations, and integration of new innovative data sources (RF detection, etc.).

This is a real challenge, both operationally and technically, for which the various CLS business teams are fully mobilized.

A strategic partnership with Preligens, the French specialists in artificial intelligence and geo-spatial analysis.

In order to go even further in the integration of innovative techniques, and thus increase the efficiency of the state's action at sea, CLS will rely on its strategic partner Preligens (ex-Earthcube), a French specialist in artificial intelligence and geospatial data analysis.



Testimonials.

Emmanuel, Frigate Captain:

"The contemporary world is characterized by a very large mass of data to be exploited. This is why a phase of synthesis (correlation) and analysis is essential to obtain useful information. In the maritime domain in general and in naval operations in particular, accurate and up-to-date information remains difficult to obtain. Supplemented by other sources (e.g. space imagery), AIS data contributes to our need for knowledge and anticipation. In this context, we are following with great interest the development of the TRIMARAN III service, especially its ability to correlate information of different kinds. We have recently conducted several experiments, which have allowed us to evaluate CLS services. These experiments have been promising and have allowed us to understand the qualities and areas for improvement. We remain convinced that part of the success relies on the ability to correlate data from various sensors. The last query showed that using the new TRIMARAN III portal was intuitive."

Nadia MAAREF, Director of Maritime Security Applications at CLS:

"30 years of close collaboration with international maritime authorities and actors have enabled us to be a recognized player for maritime surveillance and security. Our teams have been able to draw on this expertise to develop cutting-edge solutions based on behavioral analysis algorithms to provide tools that guarantee reliable, integrated and secure information. We are extremely proud today to support the French Navy in its sovereign missions."

CLS

CLS, a subsidiary of CNES (1) and CNP (2), is an international company that has been a pioneer in providing Earth observation and monitoring solutions since 1986. Its vision is to design and deploy innovative solutions to understand, protect and sustainably manage our planet's resources. CLS employs 800 people at its headquarters in Toulouse and at 29 other sites around the world. The company operates in five strategic business areas: sustainable fisheries management, environmental monitoring, climate, maritime safety, fleet management, and energy & mining. The company provides satellite services based on location and environmental data collection (100,000 beacons are processed each month, drifting buoys, beacons on animals, fishing fleets or commercial fleets, etc.), ocean observation and monitoring of the environment.), observation of oceans and continental waters (more than 20 instruments on board satellites provide CLS with daily information on the world's seas and oceans), and monitoring of land and maritime activities (more than 10,000 radar images are processed and several hundred hours of drone flights are analyzed each year by its teams). The CLS Group achieved a turnover of nearly 140 million euros in 2020. Committed to a sustainable planet, the company works daily for the Earth, from Space.

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CNES (1)

CNES (Centre National d'Études Spatiales) is the public establishment responsible for proposing French space policy to the government and implementing it within Europe. It designs and places satellites in orbit and invents the space systems of tomorrow; it promotes the emergence of new services, useful in everyday life. CNES, created in 1961, is the originator of major space projects, launchers and satellites, and is the natural partner for industry to push innovation. CNES has nearly 2,500 employees, men and women who are passionate about space, which opens up infinite fields of application and innovation, and who work in five areas: Ariane, science, observation, telecommunications and defense. CNES is a major player in technological innovation, economic development and industrial policy in France. It also forges scientific partnerships and is involved in numerous international cooperative ventures. France, represented by CNES, is the main contributor to the European Space Agency (ESA). www.cnes.fr

CNP (2)

Founded by Mr. Albert Frère and owned by members of his family, CNP is one of the two pillars of the Frère Group. With a stable and supportive family shareholder base, CNP focuses on long-term value creation through active involvement with the management teams of the companies in which it is the majority or leading shareholder. Through its two pillars, CNP and GBL, the Frère Group manages net asset value of around €5.5 billion, deployed through a diversified portfolio of global companies that are leaders in their sectors of activity. www.cnp.be