COUNTRY FOCUS:
PORTUGAL

Main Ground Combat System

- **French Military Strategy**
- **Equipping the UK STRIKE Brigades**
- **4 x 4 Armoured Vehicles**
- **Mobile Secure Communication**
- **Digitisation of Land-Based Operations**
- **SCORPION Programme Update**

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One of Portugal's Largest Players in Defence

Photo: Edisoft

EDISOFT is a joint venture between Thales, NAV Portugal and the former Portuguese Defence holding Empordef which delivers critical systems for land, sea, air, space and cyberspace. ESD had the opportunity to talk to Fernando Braz de Oliveira, Head of Naval Systems at EDISOFT.

ESD: In defence, you became known in Portugal for naval systems and vessel traffic systems. What kind of products have you developed?

De Oliveira: EDISOFT is a joint venture between Thales, one of the largest players in defence, space, safety and security, aeronautics and transports. Whereas NAV Portugal and the Portuguese MoD promote and deliver innovative and state-of-the-art security critical systems, for defence, land, sea, air, space and cyberspace.

In the nowadays challenging environment, EDISOFT positions itself together with a skilful and competent team of Portuguese engineers, aiming to produce and maintain critical and military solutions for our clients, focused on providing our customers permanent access to the most advanced solutions for the aeronautics, space, security, cyber security and defence domains.

In the naval domain, we continued our original path in close proximity and intimacy, linked to the Portuguese Navy evolution, where we stand by their side from the early nineties with the maintenance and sustainability of the VASCO DA GAMA programme, and lately we stand ready to address the challenge to deliver an adequate, efficient and tailored solution for the Operational Capability Enhancement programme of the VASCO DA GAMA class frigates, ensuring its operation value throughout their life cycle foreseen until 2035. Our commitment and knowledge of the Navy allowed us to support the resurging of the Naval Military Construction, delivering two OPVs (Offshore Patrol Vessels) on time and on budget tailored to the specific requirements of the Navy.

ESD: The consortium WestSea-EDISOFT is acknowledged in Portugal for its innovative military shipbuilding. What have you done so far?

De Oliveira: EDISOFT in a successful national consortium with WestSea, a naval shipyard up north of Portugal, at Viana do Castelo, were able to produce a unique platform, the Portuguese OPV class VIANA DO CASTELO, a project that represents the success of the Dual Role Military Naval Construction.

This ship is the perfect and harmonised conjunction of the naval construction experience and the integration of the excellency of a technological partner, EDISOFT.

We were able to develop and produce modern onboard solutions for automation and efficiency, implementing the ship platform management, command & controll systems and a dedicated information sharing system.

The project has the guarantee of the best operational references from the Portuguese Navy, supported by its sustainability along the life cycle of the ship.

The project is characterised by its robustness, scalability, flexibility and versatility.

The proven record of more than 10 years of real life operations, granted this platform the Navy stamp of excellency, recognising its excellent performance at sea, when exploring its multirole capabilities either by acting alone or in a joint effort on the areas of national sovereignty and responsibility, or in multinational international support missions.

Its characteristics make it a valuable platform to perform duties such as Maritime Search and Rescue; Fishery Protection and Control; Transiting Lanes Control; Prevention and Combat of Oil Pollution at Sea, and Prevention and Combat of Illegal Activities (drugs; illegal migration, arms control and others).

Aiming at the follow on of this successful project we are developing a Decision Making Support System, which stands as the evolution of the existing onboard C2 system called C4SEA, an EDISOFT product, that can be further adapted to other plat-

Photo: Edisoft

Latest generation offshore Patrol Vessels (OPV) of the VIANA DO CASTELO class

forms and requirements, integrating the actual sensors and unmanned vehicles.

C4SEAmodule helps the decision making process and optimises resources; it is a unique tool to maximise the command decision process. The system provides the commanding officer with a complete and clear situational awareness with respect to external threats, and internal resources.

The system is a GIS-based interface showing the current position of the OPV and the surrounding traffic, and it incorporates and fuses all available data, supported by warning algorithms in order to provide alerts on anomalous behaviour detection of marine vessels.

EDISOFT's main goal with the OPVs is to continue producing it for the Portuguese Navy to fill the gap posed by the decommission of the old corvettes, and scale it to the Portuguese-speaking countries ensuring a common and valuable platform sharing the same education, training, maintenance and follow-on support with its navy customers.

With regard to other domains, EDISOFT has in its DNA a combination of expertise that allows us to position Portugal in other markets, such as Space and EO "Earth Observation", taking the advantage of the strategic position of EDISOFT´s Teleport at Santa Ma-

The EDISOFT OPV Integrated Bridge.

ria Island in the Azores. This Atlantic facility, together with our "Technological Astronauts", an excellent team of local engineers, leverages our competences, serving clients that need hosting systems with a clear view over EMEA & LATAM regions.

In EO we use algorithms and expert analysis tools that are able to generate added value products 24/7, processing large amounts of data ensuring timeliness of data delivery (Near Real Time).

With our product OCEANEYE, we are able to provide EMSA "European Maritime Safety Agency" the ability to detect infringers at sea in our area of responsibility. This product allows an extended maritime surveillance capability, which can be customised for specialised services and activities.

ESD: You have also been specialising in cyber security. What have you been doing in this field?

De Oliveira: EDISOFT also represents a cyber success story continued along the years, with a focus on the financial services, utilities, government and critical infrastructure sectors with international strategic coverage of some of the Portuguese-speaking countries, winning multi-year complex Cyber Security Projects and having reference customers worldwide.

We deliver the state-of-the-art security tools and technologies leveraged by our local team cybersecurity expertise and proven competences in many different national and international complex cyber projects, along with the support of a truly global technological solution player such as the Thales Group, with their unique expertise, resources and cyber solutions portfolio.

We stand as the cyber threats evolve ready to support and produce customised solutions to cybersecure some of the most demanding customers worldwide.

We aim at serving critical and military customers with our skills and competences, in a collaborative and cooperative approach, adapting solutions to client needs and requirements. We are proud to serve you.

ESD: Thank you.

The interview was conducted by Antonio Bras Monteiro.

EDISOFT is a key partner of the Portuguese Navy

EDISOFT TELEPORT in Santa Maria Island in the Azores