

Press release

Monday, 27 May 2024

IHC Defence signs contract with Command Materiel & IT for Winch and Handling Systems

Recently, IHC Defence signed the contract with the Ministry of Defence's Materiel & IT Command (COMMIT) for the supply of six Winch and Handling Systems (WHS). The signing was done by Eric Gret, General Manager IHC Defence in the presence of COMMIT's contract manager Simone van de Akker and Project Manager Rob Klijn, and Royal IHC CEO, Derk te Bokkel.

The newly-built systems will be placed on the four future Anti Submarine Warfare Frigates (two for the Royal Netherlands Navy and two for the Belgian Navy) and on board Zr.Ms. Karel Doorman and Zr.Ms. Johan de Witt.

The Winch and Handling Systems are intended for the deployment and recovery of a towed combined passive and/or active sonar (towed array). This sonar is of great importance for the protection of these capital vessels in areas where there is a high probability of attack with torpedoes originating from submarines. The highly sensitive sonar is able to detect any torpedoes fired so that the ship can deploy countermeasures in time.

Eric Gret, General Manager IHC Defence: "We are proud to be able to deliver a key piece of equipment for the four future Anti Submarine Warfare Frigates, and in this way contribute to the safety of the Royal Netherlands Navy and the Belgian Navy."

The Winches are manufactured in Kinderdijk by SAS-Hytop, a division of Royal IHC that already has long experience in supplying winches that must be able to operate in the harshest conditions. The six systems for the Royal Netherlands Navy will be delivered in phases. The first in January 2026 and sixth winch in 2029.

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Note for the editors, not for publication:

Royal IHC is determined to play a leading role in making the maritime industry more efficient and sustainable.

Anchored in the rich Dutch maritime history, Royal IHC continues to expand its position as a leading supplier of maritime technology and craftsmanship. With the right expertise on board and driven by innovation, Royal IHC offers a clear competitive advantage to its global customers in the dredging, offshore, mining and defence industries.

With its equipment, vessels and services, Royal IHC provides reliable, integrated solutions to increase customers' operational efficiency and enable more sustainable solutions. In an ever-changing world, our goal remains to find the smartest and safest way forward for both our customers and Royal IHC employees.

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This press release can also be found on our website www.royalihc.com.