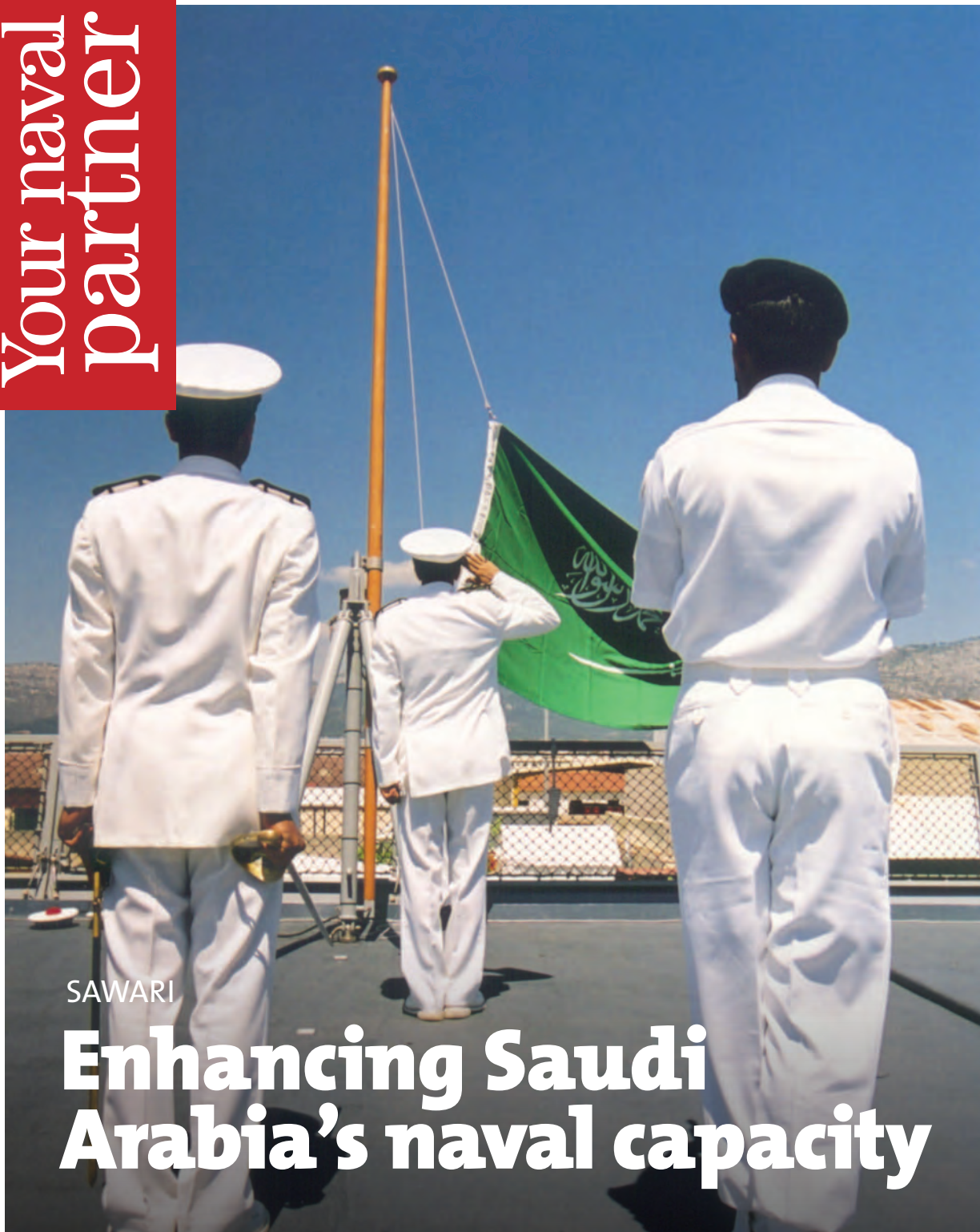


Your naval
partner



SAWARI

Enhancing Saudi Arabia's naval capacity

STRENGTH at sea

DCNS

Building a significant naval force

Since the early 1980's, France and Saudi Arabia have been working in partnership to enhance the Royal Saudi Naval Forces' capacity and power. Such durable cooperation does not only rely on building made-to-measure state-of-the-art combat ships but also on DCNS' commitment to providing facilities for operation long-term support and comprehensive training in a broad range of naval, engineering and technical skills.

In the 1980's the Sawari I contract allowed for the provision of four frigates and two replenishment tankers, laying the foundations of Saudi Arabia's future naval strategy.

There was more to the partnership than the vessel's features: it also scheduled for the initial training of Saudi cadets in French Navy's Ecole Navale, training of ships' crews and maintenance technicians, not to forget the delivery of helicopters and ammunition and the building of naval infrastructures in Djeddah.

As a result, France has become Saudi Arabia's privileged and foremost partner in building and upgrading its navy for nearly three decades. For instance, Repair Overhaul (ROH) of Sawari I ships took place in Toulon DCNS' shipyard, in France. DCNS also participate to long-term support of these ships in Saudi Arabia.

From Sawari I to Sawari II

The success of the Sawari I agreement led to another partnership. The

breakthroughs of the La Fayette-class frigates, their innovative design and their outstanding performance within the French Navy made it the obvious choice for Saudi Arabia as the following major step towards naval autonomy. In the mid-1990's, both parties signed the Sawari II agreement, which scheduled the delivery of two frigates drawing on the outstanding features and performance of the La Fayette-class ships. An amendment to the contract was signed in 1997 for a third frigate. The first of the three

new-generation frigates was commissioned in July, 2002, whilst the second and third were delivered respectively in 2004 and 2007.

In line with the La Fayette-class ships, the Sawari II frigate boasts unrivalled stealthiness, seakeeping and survivability and is equipped with a highly-automated platform management system. Permitted by the La Fayette frigate's modular design, the Saudi Sawari II is fitted with the Aster anti-air and anti-missile system. The Saudi Navy has been therefore

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the second navy to be equipped with this new-generation missile system designed by France in cooperation with Italy, which had only been fitted on the Charles-de-Gaulle aircraft carrier before. In addition to its outstanding anti-air warfare capabilities, the comprehensive and powerful combat suite of the Saudi Sawari II frigate also includes a towed-array sonar for anti-submarine warfare, heavyweight torpedoes, anti-ship missiles for anti-surface warfare, plus a state-of-the-art electronic warfare system. Perfectly tailored to Saudi Arabia's naval strategy and operational requirements, the Sawari II frigates allows the Kingdom to play an active role as part of interallied naval coalition forces.



30
years of partnership

100
Saudis in France's top
engineering schools

FOCUS ON



Aster and Sylver®: the winning duo

Thanks to the La Fayette-class frigates' modular design, Saudi Arabia could turn the Sawari II ships into powerful combat assets using enhanced anti-missile and anti-air features. The Saudi frigates are indeed equipped with the European Aster anti-missile system. The system, thanks to its Arabel 3D fire-control radar and its tight integration with the ship's combat management system, is able to deal with multiple and saturating anti-ship missile attacks. Fired from their Sylver® vertical launchers, the Aster missiles which feature unrivalled agility hit their high speed and high manoeuvring targets in seconds. In addition to the French and Saudi Navies, Aster and Sylver® have now been chosen by the Italian Navy, the Royal Navy and the Republic of Singapore's Navy as their main naval anti-air system.

Trained for maximum autonomy

IN ORDER TO ACCOMPANY SAUDI ARABIA IN BUILDING AND DEPLOYING A MODERN NAVAL FORCE, FRANCE HAS BEEN PROVIDING AND FACILITATING TRAINING TO AS MUCH AS 700 SAUDI TRAINEES AS PART OF THE SAWARI II PROGRAMME.

One of France's and prime contractor DCNS' main commitment was to provide Saudi Arabia with comprehensive training programme in order to allow its navy to operate the Sawari II frigates whatever the situation, whether for peace or crisis management purposes.

In partnership with French Navy's naval training expert entity NAVFCO, DCNS provided crew training carried out ashore and on board the Sawari II frigates, in France and in Saudi Arabia as allowed by the construction planning. As part of the agreement, DCNS had equipped a dedicated school in Djeddah, providing naval and technical training to about 500 crew members.

As part of the integrated logistics support package, DCNS also provided technical training in all the specialities of naval repair and maintenance activities to about 100 Saudi maintenance technicians.

On top of these two traditional fields of expertise, the Sawari II programme allowed for the training of about 100 Saudi engineers within France's top engineering schools.

As a result of this durable and comprehensive partnership, a strong link has been built between the two navies and industrials.





Whilst frigates were traditionally deployed alongside other vessels as part of a demonstration of power, a renewed vocation started emerging before the turn of the millennium. No wonder: crisis of a new kind - like humanitarian rescue operations or interallied dissuasion forces - have progressively broadened the scope of intervention of most of the world's navies, among which Saudi Arabia's.

Playing a key role within coalition forces

Equipped with three multi-purpose Sawari II frigates drawing on the La Fayette-class' most outstanding developments, Saudi Arabia's Navy can play a significant role within inter-allied operations around the world. The Kingdom also has an enhanced capacity to assert its sovereignty at sea, particularly in the Arabic Gulf and the Red Sea.

For the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, local challenges are also to be met, taking into account an increasingly complex and potentially threatening environment. From protecting vital economical interests linked to its thriving oil business through to gathering and processing critical data on an on-going basis in order to prevent the occurrence of a crisis, the Royal Saudi Navy is permanently looking for autonomy, power as well as a high level of discretion.

Being equipped with the most sophisticated multipurpose combat frigates is a key asset to meet such challenges. And naturally, pursuing the upgrading of the Royal Saudi Navy to reach an even higher rank remains one of DCNS' commitments to Saudi Kingdom as a long-term partner.



STRENGTH at sea

DCNS is Europe's key global player providing high-value-added naval defence systems. The Group offers the world's navies a turnkey approach to warships, including all related equipment and services. As prime contractor, designer, builder, and integrator, the Group masters the overall value chain and life-cycle of naval systems, from initial design to full operational maintenance.

An international player

DCNS' capacity for innovation allows it to respond to the complex challenges of navies around the world by proposing cost-efficient integrated solutions, which are both interoperable (air/naval/land) and applicable to inter-allied operations.

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