

“Third Naval Systems Seminar Brings Together the Defence Industry”

The Third Naval Systems Seminar on naval systems organized to increase joint accumulation of knowledge, to expand mutual cooperation, obtain the awareness of the capabilities of relevant universities and research institutions and companies and sharing the road map and strategies on the design and production of said systems was hosted by the Undersecretariat for Defence Industries under the main sponsorship of RMK Marine and HAVELSAN at the Middle East Technical University (ODTÜ) Culture and Convention Center on 11-12 October 2010.



The Seminar commenced with the opening remarks of ODTÜ Vice President Prof. Dr. Volkan Atalay on behalf of the President of ODTÜ, Undersecretary for Defence Industries (SSM) Mr. Murad Bayar, SASAD General Secretary Mr. Kaya Yazgan and Senior Engineer Colonel A. Zafer Betoner.

In the opening remarks, the status during the last period of the shipbuilding industry and shipyards; the effects of the military ship projects on the development of the shipbuilding and supply industry; the importance of achieving a structure in the development of the Turkish defence industry and its competitiveness in meeting naval systems requirements through indigenous and national design and the

necessity of increasing existing export potential through new designs as well as the provision of logistic support in the production of these goods and expectations of SSM from this sector were voiced.

The Secretary General of the Defence Industry Manufacturers Association (SASAD) Mr. Kaya Yazgan delivered a presentation on the present status and issues of the military naval industry. Yazgan emphasized the bureaucratic problems relating to the use of the Resource Use Support Fund (Kaynak Kullanımı Destek Fonu-KKDF), the matter of Request for Proposal being issued only to competent producers and inconveniences involving investments and incentives.

Later speaking at the Seminar, the

Undersecretary for Defence Industries Mr. Murad Bayar stated that as in other areas, all project activities of the military maritime industry are realized parallel to the Sector Strategy Document prepared by the SSM.

He indicated that the long term final objective is to fulfill the design and construction of military purpose surface ships together with their sub-systems through domestic means.

In a detailed speech on the status of the military maritime industry and the projects at hand by the SSM, the Head of Department of Naval Platforms Mr. Serdar Demirel said that the total number of projects carried out by the SSM in 2009 was 226 and that the 14 platform projects carried out by the Department has a total value of approximately 8 billion USD.



Indicating that the Department of Naval Platforms is formed from 4 main working groups, namely War Ship Group, Amphibious Ship Group, Auxiliary Ship Group and Boat Group and in accordance with the Sector Strategy Document, they are at the selection stage of competent and suitable shipyards for these groups. Mr. Demirel also mentioned that another shipyard would be attached to the present Yonca Onuk shipyard for the Boat Group and that 4 shipyards would be selected from among the auxiliary class ships and frigate/corvette shipbuilders.

Mr. Serdar Demirel provided information on the point reached with the TF-2000 New Generation Air Defence Combat Frigate Project. Research on the literature on similar platforms in the world was conducted and in response to the BIDs for the sub-systems, 46 responses from 35 firms were reviewed. Information was provided to TÜBİTAK, universities and

17 local firms on the weapon - electronic systems to take place on the frigate and that R&D and domestic development project proposals were requested from them. Mr. Demirel said that 90 sub-system proposals from TÜBİTAK and 12 domestic firms were examined. Coordination meetings between SSM's Communications, Electronics and Information Systems Department (MEBS), the Electronic Warfare and Sensors Department (EHA) , the Rockets-Missiles Ammunition Department (RFM) and the R&D Department on sub-systems evaluation within the projects coverage were held; visits had taken place for similar platforms in the world and in this way all information was obtained and with the synthesizing of experiences a feasibility document was prepared. Mr. Serdar Demirel, in addition, also touched upon technology investments relating to the military maritime industry.

Overseas cooperation opportunities in

such areas as main propulsions, vertical firing launchers, radar and sonar technologies, heating, ventilation, air conditioning systems and modern weapons (kinetic energy, laser etc.) would be researched. All of the Turkish firms and research institutions indicated that work on leading technology areas such as electrical ships; underwater transmission instruments; guided missiles, laser and kinetic energy systems for submarines; rail-gun weapons and underwater electro optical sensors would be beneficial.

In the period ahead said Mr. Demirel, MİLGEM Other Ships; LPD; TF-2000; Turkish-type assault boats; mine hunting vessels; TF-100; Landing Craft Air Cushion (LCAC), Schooner Type School Ship; the Fleet Replenishment Ship and the LHD projects would be implemented.

Furthermore, as of now the total value of military maritime exports is approximately 500 million USD, stated Mr. Serdar Demirel. Within this coverage, the Fast Intervention Craft developed by Yonca Onuk were exported to Georgia and Egypt; the Fast Intervention Craft from Yonca Onuk to UAE, Malaysia, Pakistan and the TRNC; the Fast Patrol Craft to Pakistan and Georgia; Istanbul Shipyard's Patrol Boat to Romania and Aselsan's Stamp system was exported to Malaysia. During the said organization, 42 presentations were made in which 8 were from universities and 28 from domestic and foreign firms. In addition, 53 companies' promotional activities were exhibited. Approximately 800 individuals participated in the Seminar.