

news release

7 February 2019

Ultra Electronics Command & Sonar Systems ("Ultra")

Ultra to supply new sonobuoys to French Navy

Ultra Electronics Command & Sonar Systems has been awarded an order for sonobuoys for the French Navy for production during 2019, as part of an ongoing agreement to supply sonobuoys to the fleet.

The latest order was placed recently through Thales Defence Mission Systems by the Delegation Generale de L'Armement (DGA). Ultra is about to complete delivery of its current order for HIDAR and LOFAR sonobuoys, which was awarded in 2017.

Ultra remains the only supplier of sonobuoys to the UK Royal Navy, having delivered more than 123,000 to the Ministry of Defence in the last 15 years.

Managing Director, Mike Williams, said: "Sonobuoys remain the backbone of our business, and we are delighted to provide this expert technology to the French Navy. We highly value their trust in us and our ongoing relationship."

Ultra began manufacturing sonobuoys at its Greenford facility in 1949 and has made nearly 1.3 million units to date.

The company is a pioneer and world leader in sonobuoy technology and its design engineers are currently working on a miniaturisation programme, which will see the HIDAR and ALFEA buoys supplied to the UK, reduced in size and weight with an overall improvement in performance. These smaller sonobuoys, when launched from an Ultra-designed mission pod, can uniquely provide a role-fit submarine-hunting capability for smaller fixed or rotary-winged manned aircraft and UAVs.

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Further information about Ultra:

Ultra Electronics is a group of businesses, which manage a portfolio of specialist capabilities, generating highly differentiated solutions and products in the defence & aerospace, security & cyber, transport and energy markets by applying electronic and software technologies in demanding and critical environments to meet customer needs.

Ultra has world-leading positions in many of its specialist capabilities and, as an independent, non-threatening partner, is able to support multiple prime contractors in each of its sectors.

Ultra's systems, equipment or services are often mission or safety-critical to the successful operation of the platform to which they contribute. In turn, this mission-criticality secures Ultra's positions for the long term which underpins the financial performance of the Group.

Ultra offers support to its customers through the design, delivery and support phases of a programme. Ultra businesses have a high degree of operational autonomy where the local management teams are empowered to devise and implement competitive strategies that reflect their expertise in their specific niches.

The Group has a flat structure and small head office and executive team that provide to the individual businesses the same agile, responsive support that the businesses provide to their customers. In addition, this team formulates Ultra's overarching, corporate strategy.