Thales Selects Cambridge Pixel's Technologies for Major Minehunter CMS Upgrades

Cambridge Pixel Supplies its Technologies to Thales for the ORCA Programme's Minehunter Upgrades

ROYSTON, UNITED KINGDOM, January 19, 2022 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Cambridge Pixel, a developer of radar display, tracking and recording sub-systems, has supplied its radar interface hardware, tracking, and distribution technology to Thales in the UK as part of a major investment by the MoD into enhancing the Royal Navy's mine hunting combat management systems performance.

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The ORCA Programme (Oceanographic Reconnaissance Combat Architecture) was commissioned to allow the Royal Navy to continually upgrade its mine warfare command and control systems, ensuring its global leadership in mine countermeasures well into 2030s. By switching to 'plug and play' open architecture, supported through life and integrated with other sensor suites, its vessels and crews will benefit from cutting-edge mine hunting capabilities.

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Engineers at Thales needed to interface to existing Kelvin Hughes 1007 radars aboard their vessels for integration with their own multi-function consoles (MFCs). Cambridge Pixel supplied its HPx-400e PCIe radar input cards to interface with the analogue radar video signals from the 1007 radars, and the SPx Server application software to supply the Thales TACTICOS system with ASTERIX CAT-240 format radar video and NMEA format target track data.

Cambridge Pixel's HPx-400e is a high-performance PCI express single or dual stream primary

radar acquisition card, capable of capturing and processing analogue and digital primary radar video from up to two independent radars. The dual stream HPx-400e variant supports a number of multi-channel input modes, including dual redundancy and fully independent dual-stream capture.

Cambridge Pixel's SPx Server application is a COTS radar data extractor and target tracker. Interfacing to hardware or network radar video, SPx Server accepts polar format primary or IFF radar video and processes it to identify targets, which are then correlated from scan to scan to output positional and motion updates assisting with situational awareness.

A total of six Hunt class minesweeper ships and seven Sandown class minehunter ships will receive this upgrade. After an eight-month refit, HMS Pembroke is the first vessel in the Royal Navy to gain the brand-new ORCA Command System, having launched to the seas, mission-ready in April 2020.
"It has been a privilege to work on such a vital upgrade project, helping to maintain the UK's mine countermeasure capability for years to come. Our solutions provide a straightforward upgrade path for integrators wishing to modernise and adopt open architectures." said Rob Helliar, Head of Customer Solutions at Cambridge Pixel.

As part of Cambridge Pixel's support of the ORCA programme, its engineers provided training and on-site/on-ship consultation during the installation and commissioning of the first system on HMS Pembroke. Cambridge Pixel's engineers continue to provide critical engineering support to the Thales team, as they roll out upgrades to the remaining vessels in the series.

"The Cambridge Pixel solution enabled a smooth and rapid integration to the existing analogue-technology, Kelvin Hughes Radar system. The Cambridge Pixel solution provides the radar video overlays and tracks plotted on the above water tactical displays giving the vital situational awareness needed to support a minehunting mission" said Simon Thomas, Head of Engineering, MCM, Thales in the UK.

For more information about Cambridge Pixel's technologies, or to request a demo of any of our technologies, please call: +44 (0) 1763 852749 or email: enquiries@cambridgepixel.com

Victoria Lebedeva-Baxter
CAMBRIDGE PIXEL LTD.
+44 1763 852749
victoria@cambridgepixel.com
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