

## **More modest programme of the new ship for Polish Navy**

#Marynarka wojenna #Przemysł zbrojeniowy #Strategia i polityka 31 października 2007

**First assumptions to, so far unofficial, National Ship Construction Programme (NPBO) have been made. Initial plans envisage a 15-17 billion zlotys budget till 2020. This information has been passed by admiral Waldemar Głuszko - deputy chief of the Polish Navy and chief of Naval Staff - to the auditorium of the 1st International Conference on Science and Technology: Technique and naval armament NAT CON 2007 (24-26th October 2007) in Gdynia organized by the Naval Technique Center (CTM).**

According to unofficial information initial NPBO envisages construction till 2020 of 6 multipurpose corvettes of 621 Gawron project, 5 modern mine destroyers Kormoran, 3 big patrol ships, 4 multipurpose transporters and acquiring of 1 submarine. It is a significant reduction of naval plans from before one year presented May 11th 2006 by admiral Marek Brągoszewski, former deputy chief of the Navy, during the Warsaw conference on Modern technologies for state and borders security, organized by RAPORT-wto. Then the National Naval Programme's budget was to be of 30 billion zlotys till 2020 (minimal annual spending- 0,8 billion zlotys, maximum - 2-2,3 billion zlotys). Also 3-4 modern frigates, 6-7 multirole corvettes, 10 mine destroyers, 3 submarines, 3 multirole armed forces support ships and 1 command ship were mentioned.

### **Kormoran - reactivation**

Admiral Głuszko said that after a time of Kormoran mine destroyers programme suspension - its reactivation programme has begun (CTM constructed the up-to-date sonar system SHL-101T especially for this purpose.) He also claimed that at the beginning of 2008 a technical study on WOWOSZ (multirole armed forces operations support ship) logistic unit programme may begin. RAPORT-wto received information that the Naval Shipyard has been working on the new option of KORMORAN plans since and CTM applies for making WOWOSZ study.

Głuszko mentioned also studies on construction of two modern specialized ships - rescue and reconnaissance (including radio electronics).

Chief of the Naval Staff presented present priority technical assumptions of the Naval Staff. The most important ones are modernization of the fleet command support system Łeba-3 and such modernization (application of Link11 transmission protocol) that enables network-centric data exchange with other NATO embers already operating in ship units. An idea of integration of the Navy and Border Guards

information circulation into a unique Maritime Navigation Safety Support System emerges.

Finalization of the RBS15 Mk2 and Mk3 missiles deliveries for Orkan ships is important. As we acknowledged unofficially, this will happen beginning 2009.

The Navy also considers modernization of already finished delivery of MU90 Euro Torp torpedoes.

### **Ultra fast chaser cutter for Border Guards**

Capt. Edward Szutkiewicz presented assumptions to the Border Guards Naval Department (chief - commander Piotr Stocki). Due to close (December 2007) entering of Poland to Shengen zone, Border Guards start a network of complementary automated posts of Polish coast surveillance. It comprises 18 towers equipped with radars and one with remotely commanded optoelectronic head. Network will be completed with at least 2 vehicles with mobile radars installed. Beyond the conference we received information that Border Guards is testing a vehicle with Israeli Elta radio locators. First posts of the network are already in use in Gdańsk Bay. In the future, data from the network after processing will be transferred to surveillance and command center, creating a unique situation image in our Baltic zone.

The most recent acquisition of the BG Naval department is the ultra fast IC16MIII chaser cutters constructed in Sweden. 2 boats are in BG Kaszubski Dywizjon, 2 others will be based in zachodniopomorski division in Świnoujście. Official raise of Polish flag is scheduled for November, 16th.

Szutkiewicz revealed that BG is applying for funding of a 2 big seagoing escort vessels with helipad construction project. Preliminary assumptions give the following data: length-57-65m, dive -3,5m, max. speed - 20 knots, range - 4500 miles, crew- 14 people. Probably Naval Shipyard and Northern Shipyard (already submitted a project) will apply for its construction.

### **Polish Stealth mine**

On the conference also CTM presented its recent achievements and interesting R&D works. New generation naval mine with intelligent 4-channel, remotely programmed fuse and submarine stealth features case (it is covered with a special material that minimizes the sonar echo) has undergone tests. Mine can be placed under water using submarine launchers. ORP Orzeł torpedoes launchers were used during these tests. Mine is a result of Sikora programme realized with participation of the Naval Academy (Akademia Marynarki Wojennej). Sikora mines may form a remotely operated underwater barrier safe for own ships and initiated while intruders try to force it.

Remote operations of the barriers are a result of CTM and Naval Academy programme - Biegusa.

Ships protecting baits are to be tested in real conditions of fight with attacking up-to-date torpedoes - result of Płaskonos programme. Education Department has already approved it for naval trials.

CTM together with other Polish enterprises and Swedish SAAB company (corvette consortium) applies for place in Gawron corvette programme (tender of the Naval Shipyard for integrated management system). As at least 5 years experience in fight management systems integration is required, SAAB became a consortium's leader.

The most recent R&D CTM subject are autonomous unmanned surface platforms and deep-sea ships.

The idea of the Naval Academy scientists who created a project of the old SET 53 electric torpedoes conversion to become the autonomous deep-sea reconnaissance vehicle of 70km range. First two torpedoes have been given by the fleet to Naval Academy.

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