

Press release

Nexter and SERA Ingénierie (SOGECLAIR) join forces to form the French champion of military robotics

Versailles April 12, 2023

Nexter and SOGECLAIR, through its subsidiary SERA Ingénierie, have signed a partnership agreement to jointly develop land robots for the French Army. These two major players in French military robotics are combining their complementary know-how: Nexter, leading land defense company in France and Europe, is contributing its recognised skills in architecture, system integration and robotic systems, while SERA Ingénierie (SOGECLAIR), specialized in the design and manufacturing of special vehicles and mission systems, will contribute its recognised expertise in the fields of mechanical design and production of defense and security platforms, civil and simulation applications. This partnership aims to offer sovereign and state-of-the-art military robotics solutions.

Leader in the field of counter-mining, simulation and dynamic behaviour of vehicles, SERA Ingénierie (SOGECLAIR) provides its expertise in land mobility with its new PHOBOS platform. Resulting from 10 years of investment, PHOBOS is designed around three strategic axes: mobility, autonomy and modular architecture. This multipurpose robotic carrier of less than two tons net weight, and with one-ton payload has been designed to accommodate all types of mission kits (tools, sensors, effectors). Its four independent wheels with reinforced suspension allow it to follow easily at high speed the tracks of armoured vehicles on any type of terrain. In addition, its thermal engine and its large fuel tank ensure the electrical and hydraulic supply of all embedded equipment. The PHOBOS will also be available in a hybrid or electric version.

As a reference industrial prime contractor, Nexter brings its knowledge of the operational environment and its constraints (such as operating safety or cyber protection), as well as its know-how in manned and unmanned systems architecture. In the field of robotics, Nexter is developing an autonomous mobility kit combining assisted remote operation with autonomous capabilities that can be used in hostile environments (personnel tracking, route tracking, convoy tracking, rallying to a point of interest, etc.), thanks to major investments made over the past 10 years. The human-robot relationship is particularly explored in order to have an optimised human-robot system where the contribution of each entity is adjusted as well as possible and in real time, whatever the tactical situation.

One of the first joint projects concerns the design of an investigation robot aimed at meeting the needs of engineering units. For this purpose, the PHOBOS platform is distinguished by its adaptation to the operational needs of this device by combining mobility, ergonomics and a small logistic footprint. For example, PHOBOS can easily be towed by all-terrain vehicles over long distances or even airborne. Thanks to its advanced robotic architecture, this robot will carry out dangerous missions such as counter-mining while ensuring the safety of its operators.

Sylvain Rousseau, Director of Nexter's Systems activity, is delighted with this partnership: "The partnership between Nexter and SERA Ingénierie (SOGECLAIR) reflects the will to unite the key players of the French robotics in order to create the new land robot solutions".



Olivier Pedron, President of SERA Ingénierie (SOGECCLAIR) and Chief Operating Officer of SOGECCLAIR, adds “this partnership aims to provide solutions with a small logistical footprint, robust, sober, proven and reliable”.

About Nexter

Nexter, the leading French land defense company and one of the main European players in the ammunition sector is part of the KNDS Group. The scope of its business includes as well the supply of weapon systems and ammunition for air and naval forces. The group continues to apply its international development policy with several order intakes in 2021 intended for the export market. In France, Nexter is fully committed to meeting the objectives of the SCORPION program, through the upgrade of the Leclerc tank and the development and production of the VBMR GRIFFON and EBRC JAGUAR vehicles within the temporary business venture between Nexter, Thales and Arquus, as well as the Lightweight VBMR SERVAL (with Texelis). The group's range of products also includes TITUS® and VBCI armored vehicles, CAESAR® and 105LG1 artillery systems, smart ammunition (BONUS®, KATANA®), robots and many equipment. Nexter's 2021 turnover amounted to €1,3 billion, including 30% devoted to customer services, from training to fleet management to support and revaluation.

More information on www.nexter-group.fr.

Contacts

Guillem Monsonis

+33 1 39 49 33 77

g.monsonis@nexter-group.fr

Gabriel Massoni

+33 6 63 41 85 84

g.massoni@nexter-group.fr

About Sogclair

Supplier of innovative, high added-value solutions for safer and more efficient mobility, SOGECLAIR brings its skills in high-quality engineering and production to a broad range of cutting-edge sectors, notably aeronautics, space, vehicle, rail and defense. Supporting its customers and partners from the design and simulation stages through to the end of the product's lifetime, all along the production chain through to entry into service, the collaborators are working worldwide to offer a high quality, proximity service to all its customers.

SOGECLAIR is listed on Euronext Paris – Compartment C – Indice Euronext® Family Business -Code ISIN: FR0000065864 / (Reuters SCLR.PA – Bloomberg SOG.FP)

Contacts: Philippe ROBARDEY, President & CEO / Olivier PEDRON, Chief Operating Officer / +33(0)5 61 71 70 33

Press Contact :

Louise-Marie Thabard

+33 6 75 95 12 20

louise-marie.thabard@sogclair.com