

PRESS RELEASE

Kinderdijk, September 15th, 2026



Royal IHC and Naval Group sign first order for the new Orka-class submarines

On 15th September 2026, Royal IHC and Naval Group signed an initial contract covering the on-board accommodation module for the Royal Netherlands Navy's new Orka-class submarines in the framework of the Replacement of the Netherlands Submarine Capability (RNSC) Programme.

As part of the contract, Royal IHC will contribute to the design of the living quarters on board the new submarines. In a subsequent phase, Royal IHC will also be involved in the production and installation of these quarters within the modules.

Royal IHC is one of the partners within Team Orka, the growing network of Dutch companies that are contributing to the construction of the new Orka-class, and brings to the project experience in complex maritime projects, combined with specialist craftsmanship for high-quality on-board modules.

This cooperation aligns with the Industrial Cooperation Agreement (ICA) signed by Naval Group with the Ministry of Economic Affairs, and underlines the role of Dutch maritime expertise and manufacturing capacity in the realisation of the Orka-class submarines. It also promotes collaboration and knowledge exchange between the Dutch and French maritime industries.

"The signing of this contract is an important milestone for Royal IHC," says Eric Gret, Director of Defence at Royal IHC. "Naval Group's confidence in our expertise and manufacturing capabilities confirms the strength of our organisation. We are proud to be contributing to the Orka-class submarines and look forward with confidence to our continued future collaboration with Naval Group in the construction of complete modules."

"For Naval Group, collaboration with Dutch industrial partners is a key part of the programme," says Mark Donderwinkel, Country Director Netherlands at Naval Group. "Royal IHC brings proven maritime expertise and experience in complex projects. This first contract represents an important step in our joint commitment to providing modern, reliable and future-proof submarine capability for the Royal Netherlands Navy."

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About Naval Group

As an international naval defence player, Naval Group is a partner for countries seeking to maintain control of their maritime sovereignty. Naval Group develops innovative solutions to meet its customers' requirements. The group is present throughout the entire life cycle of vessels. It designs, produces, equips, integrates, supports and upgrades submarines and surface ships, as well as their systems and equipment, right up to the final phases of deconstruction and dismantling. Naval Group's unique know-how in autonomous systems, underwater weapons and drones place it in pole position to become European leader in the sector. As a high-tech company, it draws on its outstanding expertise, unique design and production resources and ability to establish strategic partnerships, in particular within the framework of transfers of technology. It also provides shipyard and naval base services.

Ever mindful of the issues concerning corporate social responsibility (CSR), Naval Group is a signatory to the United Nations Global Compact. Located on five continents, the group generates revenue of 4.679 billion euros and has 17,170 employees (Full-Time Equivalent average annual workforce - figures as on 31 December 2025).

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