

Maritime Autonomous Surface Surveillance System (MASSS) – Inject

After your earlier evaluation of system complexity, the project moved on to develop a response to the Invitation To Tender after completing several actions to de-risk their development of MASSS.

And, congratulations are in order, as PROCULUS GROUP, and your suppliers, were awarded a contract to supply a limited number of the proposed MASSS by the procurement body of the TAU nation.

The development project is now at a Critical Design Review. Before committing extensive resources to manufacture and deliver the MASSS to TAU, you have again been asked to evaluate the complexity of the system. However, the senior management team regrets to inform you that the design and development work has not gone smoothly. Over the past months, the project has suffered delays due to difficulties in getting adequate design information about the COTS autonomous surface vehicle from its supplier. There have been lengthy contractual and technical discussions between the supplier and PROCULUS GROUP and these show no signs of abating.

And we would like you to listen to the following excerpt from a discussion with the project manager of the procurement arm of TAU:

“There have recently been some... unfortunate... incidents at sea and the TAU government, and PANTHEON, have come under increasing scrutiny for their handling of these incidents. Blaming obsolescent equipment and failings in processes, the TAU government and PANTHEON have increased their investment in improving maritime Search and Rescue capabilities. We wanted to make sure you knew that PANTHEON intends to bring forward their planned upgrade of their C4I system that MASSS depends on to start at the end of this calendar year.

The TAU government wishes to use the MASSS acquisition as an opportunity to demonstrate their commitment to utilising cutting-edge technology effectively to address the perceived shortcomings and are keen to see a successful deployment of MASSS as quickly as possible. They are eager to demonstrate that they are taking positive action, and they have also recently announced plans to procure a new airborne autonomous maritime surveillance capability. While we have not selected a preferred system, it is easy to understand that our higher ups have a desire for this new system to be interoperable with MASSS, ideally to the extent that they contribute new functionality.

And...while we are talking about interoperability, we would like you to investigate if we can also deploy MASSS for an additional mission role – could we attach a towed Synthetic Aperture Sonar? It would be for oceanography purposes. We appreciate we are asking for a lot here, but we felt like the more we could show you the pressures we are under, the better you can understand our situation and together we can make sure the right system is delivered.”

The project is now at a Critical Design Review and you are again asked to evaluate the complexity of MASSS and its development project.