

## KERSHIP launches construction of OPV 60M for the Montenegrin Navy: A strengthened strategic partnership in the Adriatic Sea

In the presence of Mr. Dragan Krapovic, Minister of Defense of Montenegro, Ms. Anne-Marie Maskay, Ambassador of France to Montenegro, and numerous French and Montenegrin civilian and military personalities, KERSHIP launched the construction of the first of two OPV 60M offshore patrol vessels for the Montenegrin Navy at its Lorient shipyard, on April 24.



Dragan Krapovic and Pascal Leroy during the OPV 60M construction start ceremony in Lorient ©PIRIOU

This event marks a decisive step in strengthening Montenegro's strategic capabilities, a crucial issue for this country, the gateway to the Adriatic Sea, facing new security challenges. This project also demonstrates the strength of the cooperation between France and Montenegro, within the framework of the defense agreement signed in April 2024, and benefits from the support by the French defense procurement agency (Direction Générale de l'Armement) and BPI France. It is also in line with the support provided by the European Union, as demonstrated by the adoption by the EU Council on February 28, 2025 of the first assistance measure for Montenegro's armed forces under the European Peace Facility (EPF).

**Pascal Leroy, President of KERSHIP**, emphasized: "KERSHIP, a subsidiary of the PIRIOU group and NAVAL GROUP and a recognized player in the field of naval defense shipbuilding and State Action at Sea, is proud to contribute to this strategic program. **The proven design of the OPV 60M has been adapted to meet the specific needs of the Montenegrin Navy, notably integrating an CBRN cell and a hull sonar.** These adaptations, carried out by KERSHIP's engineering teams and naval architects, address Montenegro's needs and missions while maintaining the exceptional maritime performance of these patrol vessels.»

Minister Krapovic proceeded with the symbolic welding of the first two blocks, a powerful gesture that seals the cooperation between the two countries. He also unveiled the names of the ships: **PETAR I and PETAR II**, in homage to sovereign of Montenegro.

"This major investment, among the most significant since Montenegro's independence nearly 20 years ago, demonstrates our commitment to strengthening our capabilities and fully integrating into NATO operations and the European dynamics," stated **Minister Krapovic**.

Backed by its expertise in maritime sovereignty, KERSHIP is committed to providing robust and high-performance vessels tailored to Montenegro's security and defense challenges, while anticipating its future role within the EU. The OPV 60M, the result of an optimized design, will enable the Montenegrin Navy to carry out a wide range of missions: protection of strategic infrastructure, border control, anti-piracy, sea rescue operations, pollution response, and humanitarian aid. Its diesel-electric propulsion gives it a high degree of autonomy and projection capability throughout the Montenegrin maritime territory and beyond.

### **Main technical characteristics of the OPV 60M**

**Overall length:** 62.95 m

**Beam:** 9.50 m

**Draft:** 2.70 m

**Hull:** steel

**Superstructure:** aluminum

**Accommodation capacity:** 24 crew members + 16 special personnel

**Max speed:** 21 knots

**Displacement:** 550t

**Propulsion:** 2 fast electric diesel engines  
- 2 fixed pitch propellers

**Range:** 9,700 nautical miles

**Stabilization:** Active system

**Maneuvering:** 2 rudders; 1 bow thruster

**Logistics:** 7.5 t crane at 8 m with winch  
Capacity for 2 20' containers

**Intervention boats:** 2 6.80 m RHIBs on rear ramps

**Armament:** 1 remotely operated 40 mm CTA gun  
2 remotely operated 12.7 mm machine guns

**UAV:** 1 aerial drone

**Specific equipment:** NBC cell, hull sonar

**Other capabilities:** Diver/Special Forces facilities

**Mission management system:**  
POLARIS ® by NAVAL GROUP

The construction of these patrol vessels, the first of which will be delivered in the first half of 2027, is part of the ongoing development of PIRIOU and KERSHIP's export activities and reinforces its expertise in defence shipbuilding. Throughout the project, a team from the Montenegrin Navy, supported by DGA, will monitor construction, ensuring that the ships are perfectly suited to operational requirements.

#### **About Kership :**

KERSHIP specialises in the design and construction of ships of up to 100 metres in length dedicated to State Action at Sea. Created in 2013 from the strategic alliance between PIRIOU, France's leading independent shipbuilding and repair group, and Naval Group, the world leader in naval defence, KERSHIP benefits from an exceptional industrial and technological heritage. With a substantial portfolio of projects, both for the French Navy and for foreign navies, KERSHIP has demonstrated its ability to meet the most demanding requirements in terms of security and maritime sovereignty. Its teams, made up of more than a hundred highly qualified employees working at its sites in Concarneau and Lanester, master the entire value chain, from design to delivery of the ships. In 2023, KERSHIP generated sales of nearly €200 million.

**Press contact :** Ms Stéphanie ROOS FAUJOUR – Agency Sea to sea | +33(0)2-29-40-10-36 | +33(0)6-19-68-32-06 | [contact@seatosea.fr](mailto:contact@seatosea.fr)



[www.kership.com](http://www.kership.com)