

Lorient, December 17th - 2025  
**PRESS RELEASE**

## **Visit of the Deputy Prime Minister and the Minister of Defense of Montenegro to the KERSHIP Shipyard: A Key Milestone in the construction of the OPV 60M**

KERSHIP welcomed on Wednesday, 17 December, at its Lanester site, Mr. Aleksa Bečić, Deputy Prime Minister of Montenegro, and Mr. Dragan Krapovic, Minister of Defense of Montenegro. This second visit marks a significant step forward since the construction launch ceremony of the first offshore patrol vessel. The Deputy Prime Minister and the Minister of Defense were accompanied by members of their cabinet, senior officers from the Montenegrin Army and Navy Ms. Dubravka Lalovic, Ambassador of Montenegro to France, as well as local authorities.



Aleksa Bečić, Deputy Prime Minister of Montenegro (in the centre), and Mr. Dragan Krapovic, Minister of Defense of Montenegro (2<sup>nd</sup> right) visiting KERSHIP in Lanester ©PIRIOU

This technical visit, conducted as part of the construction program of the two OPV 60M offshore patrol vessels, allowed the Deputy Prime Minister and the Minister to assess the progress of the first ship, seven months after the cutting of the first steel plate, which took place on 24 April in his presence.

### **Symbolic first visit aboard the OPV 60M PETAR I**

For the first time since construction began, **Deputy Prime Minister Bečić and Minister Krapović were symbolically able to go aboard the first patrol vessel**, marking an important

milestone in the program. The KERSHIP teams presented the progress of the works, the integration of the main equipment onboard, as well as the upcoming industrial milestones.

**Delivery of the first OPV 60M, PETAR I, is scheduled for April 2027**, while the second vessel, PETAR II, will follow approximately six months later. Representatives of the Ministry were also able to observe the start of construction of the second vessel during the workshop tour.

### **A Strategic project for Montenegro, supported by EU integration and NATO Cooperation**

The acquisition of the OPV 60M vessels represents the second largest defense investment undertaken by Montenegro since its independence in 2006. This program supports the modernization of the country's naval capabilities and anticipates its expected accession to the European Union in 2028, as well as the strengthening of its operational contribution to NATO forces in the Adriatic and the Mediterranean.

The visit was led on site by Montenegrin Navy officers based in Lanester, responsible for industrial project monitoring, in coordination with KERSHIP and the French Defense Procurement Agency (DGA).

**Mr. Aleksa Bečić, Deputy Prime Minister and Coordinator of the Bureau for Operational Coordination of Intelligence and Security Sector Agencies, stated:** *'The acquisition of these patrol vessels is not only a defense investment, but also a strategic commitment to regional stability. As Coordinator of the Security Sector, I find that these vessels are crucial for strengthening our capacity to manage security challenges at sea, in full compliance with NATO standards and in anticipation of our future European integration. Montenegro is thus positioning itself as a reliable actor for collective security.'*

**Mr Dragan Krapovic, Minister of Defense of Montenegro, stated:** *"This visit confirms the remarkable progress of the construction and the strength of the partnership between KERSHIP, France, and Montenegro. The OPV 60M vessels will significantly enhance our naval capabilities and support our commitment within NATO and the European Union. Boarding the vessel today symbolises a concrete step towards a more modern, more autonomous Montenegrin Navy, better prepared to protect our interests in the Adriatic."*

**Mrs. Marie-Eugénie Cotelte, President of KERSHIP, said:** *"KERSHIP, with the support of its shareholders PIRIOU and NAVAL GROUP, is very proud to support Montenegro in this strategic program, one of the most significant since its independence. The teams in Lanester and Concarneau are fully committed to meeting the milestones and delivering robust, high-performance vessels perfectly suited to Montenegro's defense and security challenges, while anticipating its future role within the EU. The renewed trust of Deputy Prime Minister Mr. Aleksa Bečić and Minister of Defense Dragan Krapović is an honor and a strong reinforcement of our cooperation."*

### **About OPV 60M**

Based on a proven design, the OPV 60M has been specifically adapted to the needs of the Montenegrin Navy, incorporating a CBRN compartment and a hull-mounted sonar. The vessel will enable Montenegro to carry out a wide range of missions, from the protection of strategic infrastructure to anti-piracy operations and maritime rescue missions.

**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

### About Kership:

KERSHIP specializes in the design and construction of ships of up to 100 meters 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.

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