

FINCANTIERI TO BUILD SEVEN UNITS FOR QATAR***The Qatari Ministry of Defence has chosen the Italian group for its national naval acquisition programme***

Trieste, 16 June 2016 – Fincantieri, one of the world's most important shipbuilding groups, and the Qatari Ministry of Defence, have signed today in Rome a contract for the construction of **seven new generation units** included in the national naval acquisition programme.

The signing took place between the **Commander of Qatar Emiri Naval Forces, Staff Major General Mohammed Nasser Al Mohannadi** and the **CEO of Fincantieri, Giuseppe Bono**, in the presence of **the Ministers of Defence of the two countries, Khalid bin Mohammed Al Attiyah** and **Roberta Pinotti**.

The contract, amounting for Fincantieri to **approx. 4 billion euros**, envisages the supply of seven surface vessels, of which four corvettes of over 100 meters in length, one amphibious vessel (LPD - Landing Platform Dock), and two patrol vessels (OPV - Offshore Patrol Vessel) as well as support services in Qatar for further 15 years after the delivery of the vessels. All the units will be entirely built in Fincantieri Italian shipyards starting from 2018, ensuring 6 years of work and an important impact on the main Italian defense companies.

Fincantieri has prevailed over other naval shipbuilders thanks to a project recognized as the most advanced and innovative of all. This was also achieved based on the experience gained by Fincantieri in the construction of high-tech vessels for some of the most prestigious foreign navies.

Giuseppe Bono, CEO of Fincantieri, stated: *"This is a day to remember for Fincantieri, because winning the global competition for such a programme was far from easy. We have achieved a remarkable result, which allows the company to become a world leader also in the defense sector, as in cruise and offshore. With this contract Fincantieri creates a true partnership with the Qatar Emiri Naval Forces, which now position themselves as technologically advanced. The backlog increase will guarantee work for another ten years at least, ensuring continuity to the activities in the shipyards, creating the conditions to contribute to the country's growth and increase the value for the shareholders."* Bono concluded: *"We achieved this goal thanks to the support of the "Italian System", finally responding to the great ambitions of the major national companies, and to the key role played in this deal by our Government and our Navy, that supported us actively until the final closing of the agreement".*

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Fincantieri is one of the world's largest shipbuilding groups and number one by diversification and innovation. It is leader in cruise ship design and construction and a reference player in all high-tech shipbuilding industry's sectors, from naval to offshore vessels, from high-complexity special vessels and ferries to mega-yachts, ship repairs and conversions, systems and components production and after-sales services.

Headquartered in Trieste (Italy), the Group has built more than 7,000 vessels in over 230 years of maritime history. With around 19,500 employees, of whom more than 7,800 in Italy, 21 shipyards in 4 continents, today Fincantieri is the leading Western shipbuilder. It has among its clients the major cruise operators, the Italian and the U.S. Navy, in addition to several foreign navies, and it is partner of some of the main European defense companies within supranational programmes.

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