

THE EIGHTH MULTIPURPOSE FRIGATE “ANTONIO MARCEGLIA” LAUNCHED

The Italo-French FREMM program continues

Trieste, February 3, 2018 – The launching ceremony of the “Antonio Marceglia” frigate, the eighth of a series of 10 FREMM vessels - Multi Mission European Frigates, took place today at the integrated shipyard of Riva Trigoso (Genoa) in the presence of the **Italian Minister of Defence, Roberta Pinotti** and, on behalf of the Chief of Defence, General Claudio Graziano, the Chief of Staff of the Italian Navy, Admiral **Valter Girardelli**. The 10 FREMM vessels have been commissioned to Fincantieri by the Italian Navy within the framework of an Italo-French cooperation program under the coordination of OCCAR (Organisation Conjointe de Cooperation sur l’Armement, the international organization for cooperation on arms).

Godmother of the ceremony was Mrs. Silvia Marceglia, niece of the Golden Medal for Military Value, Antonio Marceglia.

The President of Fincantieri, **Giampiero Massolo**, and the CEO, **Giuseppe Bono**, played host to **Giovanni Toti**, Governor of the Liguria Region, in addition to a number of civil and religious authorities.

After the launching, fitting activities will continue in the Integrated naval shipyard of Muggiano (La Spezia), with delivery scheduled in 2019. The “Antonio Marceglia” vessel, like the other units, will feature a high degree of flexibility, capable of operating in all tactical situations. 144 metres long with a beam of 19.7 metres, the ship will have a displacement at full load of approximately 6,700 tonnes. The vessel will have a maximum speed of over 27 knots and will provide accommodation for a 200-person crew.

The FREMM program, representing the European and Italian defence state of the art, stems from the renewal need of the Italian Navy line “Lupo” (already removed) and “Maestrale” (close to the attainment of operational limit) class frigates, both built by Fincantieri in the 1970s.

The vessels “Carlo Bergamini” and “Virginio Fasan” have been delivered in 2013, the “Carlo Margottini” in 2014, the “Carabiniere” in 2015, the “Alpino” in 2016, and the “Luigi Rizzo” in 2017. The Italian program has been fully implemented with the option exercised in April 2015, regarding the construction of the ninth and tenth vessel, whose delivery is scheduled after 2020.

Orizzonte Sistemi Navali (51% Fincantieri, 49% Leonardo) acts as prime contractor for Italy in the initiative, while Armaris (Naval Group + Thales) is prime contractor for France.

This cooperation has applied the positive experience gained in the previous Italo-French program "Orizzonte" that has led to the construction for the Italian Navy of the two frigates "Andrea Doria" and "Caio Duilio".

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BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES ANTONIO MARCEGLIA

Naval Engineers Captain

Golden Medal for Military Value

Officer of the highest value, after putting all his strengths into a dangerous and exhausting training period, he took part in an expedition on underwater assault vehicles, forcing one of the most powerful and defensive enemy naval bases with an action where operational conception and practical execution wonderfully mixed with the courage and self-sacrifice of men. After moving several miles under water and overcoming all kinds of difficulties and hurdles, he positioned the charge under an enemy battleship and, after destroying the equipment, landed on foreign soil, where he was captured, not before he saw the achievement of his action. Outstanding example of conscious heroism and great spirit of sacrifice, he showed all the glorious traditions of the Italian Navy. Not satisfied with this, once he was returned to the Navy after the armistice, he offered himself again for the preparation and execution of other operations. Alexandria, 18th - 19th December 1941

He was born in Piran (Pola) on 28th July, 1915. Student of the Naval Academy within the Naval Engineers Corps from 1933, he was appointed sub-lieutenant of Naval Engineers in December 1938 and, after graduating with honours at the University of Genoa the same year, he achieved the promotion to Lieutenant. First assigned to the Autonomous Maritime Military Command of the Upper Adriatic, he then embarked on submarines: when Italy declared war on 10th June 1940, he was staying on the Ruggiero Settimo submarine, with which he participated in three missions in the Mediterranean. In October 1940, upon request, he moved to the Assault Group and after a hard training he took part in two missions against the British naval base of Gibraltar (May and September, 1941). Promoted to Captain in January 1941, in December of the same year he

participated in the daring forcing mission of the port of Alexandria, - carried out between the 18th and the 19th December, as 1st operator of the special unit 223 (2nd operator Palombaro Spartaco Schergat) – reaching the climax with the sinking of two English battleships (Valiant and Queen Elizabeth), the tanker Sagona and the damage of the British destroyer, Jervis. After the successful mission against the battleship Queen Elizabeth, he was captured and taken to the prison camp n. 321, in Palestine, and then transferred to India. Repatriated in February, 1944, he participated in the liberation war with the Assault Group, completing a war patrol in Italy, at that time occupied by the Germans. Placed, upon request, on definite leave in December 1945 he assumed the direction of a shipyard in Venice. Lieutenant Colonel Antonio Marceglia died in Venice on 13th July, 1992. Other decorations and awards for war credits:

- Silver Medal for Military Value on the field (Gibraltar, May, 1941);
- War Cross for Military Value on the field (Gibraltar, September, 1941);
- Promotion to Major of Naval Engineers (1941).

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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 more than 19,400 employees, of whom more than 8,200 in Italy, 20 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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