



**Orizzonte Sistemi Navali**

**FINCANTIERI**



## **DEFENSE: TENTH FREMM UNIT “EMILIO BIANCHI” DELIVERED TO THE ITALIAN NAVY**

**Genoa, July 31, 2025** – Yesterday, at the Fincantieri shipyard in Muggiano (La Spezia), the multi-role **frigate “Emilio Bianchi”** was delivered to the Italian Navy. This is the tenth unit of the FREMM (European Multi-Mission Frigates) class commissioned from Orizzonte Sistemi Navali as part of the Italy-France international cooperation agreement, whose contract was signed with OCCAR (Organisation Conjointe de Coopération en matière d'Armement).

Attendees at the ceremony included, among others, **Fincantieri General Manager of the Naval Vessels Division, Dario Deste; the CEO of Orizzonte Sistemi Navali, Giovanni Sorrentino; OCCAR Director General Joachim Sucker; Rear Admiral Flavio Biaggi, Commander of the Northern Maritime Interregional Command; the Director of NAVARM, Chief Inspector Admiral Giuseppe Abbamonte; and the Deputy Chief of the Navy General Staff, Admiral Giuseppe Berutti Bergotto.**

With the delivery of the “Emilio Bianchi,” the construction of the naval units in the Anti-Submarine Enhanced configuration under the FREMM program has been completed. This is one of the most ambitious European initiatives in naval defense, launched in 2005, with the first ship delivered in May 2013. The program involved the construction of ten units: four in the General Purpose configuration, four in the Anti-Submarine Warfare configuration, and two in the Anti-Submarine Enhanced configuration.

In line with the objectives of the FREMM project, two next-generation “EVOLUTION” frigates - called “FREMM EVO” - are currently under construction at Fincantieri’s integrated shipyards in Riva Trigoso and Muggiano, with delivery scheduled for 2029 and 2030, respectively.

The “Emilio Bianchi,” built at Fincantieri’s Integrated Shipyard in Riva Trigoso and Muggiano, is equipped with the most advanced systems developed by Fincantieri, Leonardo, MBDA, and Elettronica. Like the other FREMM units, it is characterized by high operational flexibility and is capable of operating in all tactical scenarios. The ship is 144 meters long, 19.7 meters wide, and has a full-load displacement of approximately 6,700 tons. It can reach speeds of over 27 knots and accommodate up to 200 people onboard.

FREMM frigates represent a technological benchmark in Europe, standing out for their innovative features and high cyber resilience, the result of extensive design and management work. The high degree of automation, state-of-the-art onboard systems, and optimized maintenance operations ensure excellent operational availability. Comprehensive Human Factors studies have contributed to the creation of functional environments designed to improve operational efficiency and crew quality of life. The ship also offers significant autonomy - about 6,000 nautical miles at 15 knots - allowing it to operate for extended periods beyond the Mediterranean.

The FREMM (European Multi-Mission Frigate) program is the most important joint initiative developed between European naval industries and represents the state-of-the-art of Italian and European defense.

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**Orizzonte Sistemi Navali** is an Italian company that has been operating for over 20 years as a system integrator at Whole Warship level throughout the ship's life cycle. The Company is Prime Contractor, Whole Warship and Combat System Design Authority for important national and international production and logistics support programs. It is owned by Fincantieri (51%) and Leonardo (49%), the two main Italian industrial groups operating worldwide in the defense sector.

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**Fincantieri** is one of the world's largest shipbuilding groups, the only player active in all high complexity marine industry sectors. The Group is a leader in the construction of cruise ships, naval and offshore vessels, and stands out for its extensive experience in the development of underwater solutions, thanks to its integrated industrial structure capable of managing and coordinating all activities related to the commercial, defense, and dual-use sectors. It holds a strong presence in key markets also thanks to the internalization of high value-added, distinctive technologies; it is also a leader in sustainable innovation and in the digital transformation of the shipbuilding sector. The company is active in the field of mechatronics, electronics, and digital naval systems, as well as in cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, and marine interiors solutions. It also offers a wide range of after-sales services, including logistic support and fleet assistance. With over 230 years of history and more than 7,000 ships built, Fincantieri is a global player with a production network of 18 shipyards worldwide and over 22,000 employees. It maintains its know-how, expertise and management centres in Italy, where it directly employs over 11,000 workers and creates around 90,000 indirect jobs.

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**Leonardo** is an international industrial group, among the main global companies in Aerospace, Defence, and Security (AD&S). With 60,000 employees worldwide, the company approaches global security through the Helicopters, Electronics, Aeronautics, Cyber & Security and Space sectors, and is a partner on the most important international programmes such as Eurofighter, JSF, NH-90, FREMM, GCAP, and Eurodrone. Leonardo has significant production capabilities in Italy, the UK, Poland, and the USA. Leonardo utilises its subsidiaries, joint ventures, and shareholdings, which include Leonardo DRS (71.6%), MBDA (25%), ATR (50%), Hensoldt (22.8%), Telespazio (67%), Thales Alenia Space (33%), and Avio (29.6%). Listed on the Milan Stock Exchange (LDO), in 2024 Leonardo recorded new orders for €20.9 billion, with an order book of €44.2 billion and consolidated revenues of €17.8 billion. Included in the MIB ESG index, the company has also been part of the Dow Jones Sustainability Indices (DJSI) since 2010.

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