



FREMM Evo: the frigate that redefines the Italian Navy

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The FREMM program (Frégate Européenne Multi-Mission), jointly developed by France and Italy at the end of the 1990s, initially planned for a total of ten ordinary units for the Italian Navy:

- **4 in ASW configuration** (Anti-Submarine Warfare), equipped with CAPTAS-4 towed VDS and two 76/62 mm guns;
- **6 in GP configuration** (General-Purpose), without VDS but with a ramp for large RHIBs and a 127/64 LW gun instead of the 76/62.

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This choice reflected the post-Cold War peace and patrol priorities, partly neglecting anti-submarine capabilities. However, the resurgence of Russian naval activities and the increase of non-NATO submarines in the Mediterranean led to a review of the equipment: in 2020, despite transferring two FREMM-GP to Egypt, the Navy ordered two “Enhanced/Hybrid” ships equipped

with ASW sensors and countermeasures combined with the 127/64 LW caliber. These latter introduced a new Ship Management System by Fincantieri NexTech and the Zeus/Virgilius electronic suite.

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The genesis of the FREMM-EV project

Starting from 2023, in parliamentary hearings and RID reports, the need for 2-6 new ASW frigates to complement the existing ten FREMMs emerged. Two work tracks were outlined almost simultaneously:

- **FREMM 2.0 / FREMM-NG**, a long-term project for a successor with greater tonnage and ample growth margin;
- **FREMM-EVO**, a short-term solution funded by the DPP 2023-25, capable of incorporating rapid sensor improvements.

In June 2023, it was decided to switch to the fixed Kronos Quad radar (GaN AESA C-band) and, a few months later, to adopt the entire Kronos Dual Band system (C+X band) with 16 VLS cells for Aster 30 Block 1NT, integrating the CMS SADO 4 and the SAAM-ESD++ system.

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Characteristics and prospects of the FREMM-EVO

- **Radar and air defense**

Kronos Dual Band C+X band, 16 Sylver A50 cells for Aster 30 B1NT, future CAMM-ER and MdCN options;

- **Armaments**

8 Teseo Mk 2 EVO missiles, 2 OTO 76/62 Strales turrets, Lionfish 30 for anti-drone defense;

- **Countermeasures and cyber-EW**

ADRIAN system dedicated to sub-100 kg drones, advanced jammer, new generation of IFF and datalink;

- **Platform management**

Evolved CMS for integration of UAVs, USVs, UUVs and drone management;

- **Contract and timelines**

Signed on July 31, 2024, with OSN (Fincantieri-Leonardo) for €1.5 billion (€750 million/unit); delivery expected between 2028 and 2029.

- **Future flexibility**

VLS space reserved for additional modules or soft-launch CAMM-ER, EW and marine drone updates.

With the FREMM-EVO, Italy consolidates a class of frigates with high ASW and AAW capabilities, capable of defending the Mediterranean and participating in advanced NATO scenarios, while maintaining a strong national industrial base and ample technological growth margin.

In summary, the FREMM Evo is not just a new ship, but a true strategic pillar for the future of the Italian Navy, combining cutting-edge technology, operational autonomy, and a strong boost to the national industry.