

Consortium



Project acronym & title
iFURTHER
high Frequency over
The Horizon sensors'
cognitivE netwoRk



Starting date
01/12/2022



Duration
3 years



EU Grant
10.95 M€



Type of action
European Defence
Fund Lump Sum Grants



Consortium
18 partners
from 10 European
countries



Topic
EDF-2021-DIS-RDIS-OTHR-2
Research for disruptive technologies
for defence applications

GA Number
101103607

Project coordination
Hellenic Aerospace
Industry



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iFURTHER

Cognitive Network of HF-Radars

A Revolutionary Enhancement
of European Defence



An ambitious 3-year technological project dedicated to **wide area (beyond the horizon) surveillance**, for providing support to the EU against emerging military threats.

Primary addressing wide area air and sea covert surveillance by **developing new concepts of over-the-horizon radar** to be integrated into a **collaborative network of high-frequency sensors**.



Ultimately contributing to the **development of a persistent and very wide-area EU defence capability** to monitor air and sea domains by **delivering a concrete and scalable solution**.



A study for assessment of core technologies to prepare the future OTH-R



Objectives of iFURTHER

- | **Detection and tracking of air and sea targets at long range** (over the horizon), far beyond currently existing systems, by using the reflections of skywave and surface-wave propagated signals
- | **Gap filling and extension of the current EU air and sea radar coverage** by introducing a multistatic sensor configuration supported by ad-hoc network protocols and an appropriate infrastructure for synchronisation and coordination of sensors
- | **Implementation of cognitive radar management systems** to optimise operational parameters in real time and as a function of environmental conditions (e.g., the state of the ionosphere), based on a design study of robust ionospheric models and sounding protocols
- | **Implementation of advanced signal processing techniques** to improve over-the-horizon detection and track performance as well as target localisation capabilities
- | **Development of new techniques for passive processing**, by utilisation of available non-cooperative illumination and application of cognitive features at network level, for optimized usage of the electromagnetic spectrum

Foreseen applications of the iFURTHER technology



Long-range surveillance out to and beyond 200nm EEZ territory



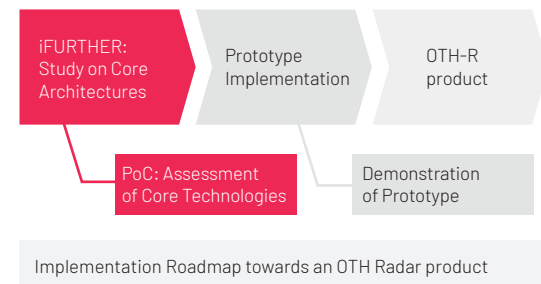
Early detection of high speed targets & **reduction of reaction time**

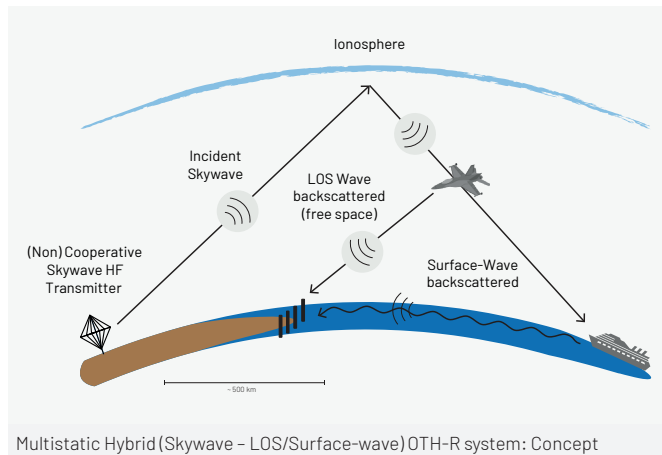
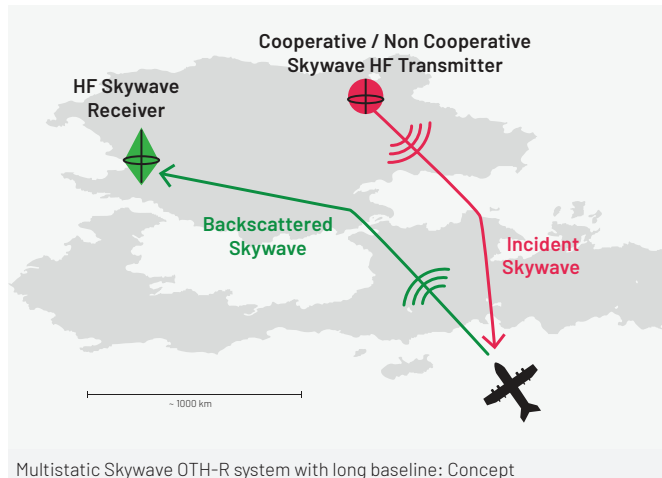


Defence against diverse threats through AI-assisted technologies



Integration within other defence applications / early warning system





iFURTHER's Approach

Study of OTH-R technologies will be performed in terms of:

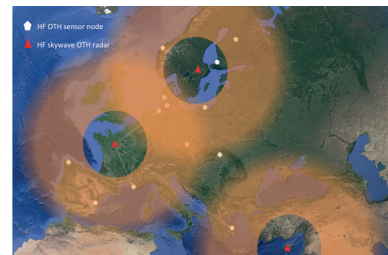
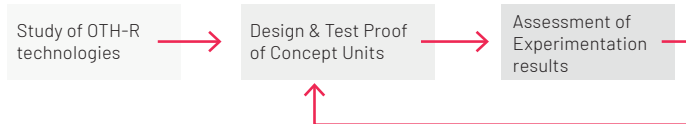
- End users' potential needs and requirements
- High-level system requirements
- Functional analysis for potential system candidates

Candidate systems will be designed to support studies and create a set of experimental setups for proof-of-concept evaluation

Proof-of-Concept Experimentations are scheduled to be performed in various places over the EU territory

- Both skywave and surface-wave (hybrid) architectures will be considered
- Representative scenarios will be evaluated and assessed to verify the approaches taken and refine the developed technologies

Experimentation results will be assessed to support design with real data coming from operational scenarios



Envisioned EU-wide surveillance system

Envisioned EU-wide surveillance system. Through interconnecting numerous types of HF Transmitters & Receivers placed across the EU territory via a dedicated network, **a unique persistent surveillance capability will be achieved.**