

South Korean Navy expands drone fleet with heavy-lift CAMCOPTER S-300

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Harry McNeil | February 20, 2024

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The versatility of the S-300 extends beyond surveillance tasks. Source: Schiebel

In collaboration with Korean defence companies, Vienna-based Schiebel Group clinched a deal with the South Korean Defence Acquisition Programme Administration (DAPA) to supply the CAMCOPTER S-300 Unmanned Air System (UAS) for the South Korean Navy.

The agreement, signed with [Hanwha Systems](#), is geared towards fortifying intelligence. surveillance.

target acquisition, and reconnaissance (ISTAR) missions for the South Korean Navy and Marine Corps.

Constant threats emanating from North Korea recently and the missile build-up across South Korean borders have caused the South Korean and US authorities to prepare effective surveillance plans, per GlobalData's thematic research on [drones for maritime operations](#).

Hans Georg Schiebel, Chairman of the Schiebel Group, expressed enthusiasm over the South Korean Navy's decision to augment its existing drone fleet, citing the S-300 as a milestone in the company's trajectory.

With an endurance of up to 24 hours and the ability to operate at altitudes reaching 21,000 feet, the S-300 promises persistent loiter capabilities essential for ISTAR operations. Its heavy-lift capacity, capable of carrying payloads of up to 250 kg, is ideal for cargo delivery across challenging terrains.

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- [HMNB Devonport: Babcock's super base blueprint for the Royal Navy](#)

The versatility of the S-300 extends beyond surveillance tasks, as it facilitates anti-submarine warfare (ASW) operations by deploying sonar buoys. Moreover, its compatibility with Schiebel's existing Ground Control Station ensures integration with the company's broader unmanned fleet, enhancing mission flexibility and cost-effectiveness.

Schiebel's recent expansion of its Abu Dhabi facility shows its commitment to meeting global demand for

the CAMCOPTER S-300. The platform's open architecture caters to operational requirements and aligns with nations' sovereignty and offset mandates.

In 2023, [BAE Systems](#) secured a £79.4m (\$100m) contract to [upgrade South Korean Navy's Archerfish](#) mine neutralisation drones, deployed via helicopters. In partnership with [Korea Aerospace Industries](#), the initiative aimed to enhance the Republic of Korea Navy's anti-mine capabilities by outfitting its helicopter fleet with a lightweight launcher and advanced data connection links.

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