



20. ANNEXURES

CARDAMA - Press October 21 2024

Uruguay approves Cardama Shipyard to build two OPVs for Navy first vessel in 18 months.

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According to information published by Infodefensa on October 17, 2024, the Uruguayan government has officially approved the bank guarantees presented by the Galician shipyard Cardama, marking the final step before construction begins on two offshore patrol vessels (OPVs) for the Uruguayan Navy.



With this approval, the process can now move forward, and the shipyard is expected to begin construction soon. The first of these vessels is projected to arrive in Uruguay within 18 months from the start of the building phase.

Each OPV will have a displacement of 1,700 tons, measuring 86.75 meters in length, 12.20 meters in beam, and a draft of 3.60 meters. The vessels will be powered by Caterpillar engines, equipped with controllable pitch propellers and a dynamic stabilization system to support helicopter operations. They will also feature two rapid-intervention boats launched via stern ramps, along with an auxiliary and rescue craft designed to meet Solas safety protocols. Beneath the flight deck, a multifunctional container system will provide space for equipment necessary for specialized missions, such as pollution control.

The OPVs will be capable of hosting Agusta Bell 412 helicopters, as specified by the Uruguayan Navy, and will be fitted for underway replenishment, significantly enhancing their operational endurance.

The ships' combat management systems (CMS) will incorporate the Terma C-Flex suite, complemented by the advanced Scanter 6002 surveillance radar, already in service with top-tier naval forces. This system will be paired with electro-optical weapon stations featuring Escribano Sentinel 30 and 2.0 systems, and an Oteos N observation system, also from Escribano. These technologies will be controlled via the ship's combat information center (CIC), with additional displays on the bridge.

Each stabilised Sentinel weapons station will include its own electro-optical targeting system, combined with the Scanter 6002 radar and Oteos N observation, offering Uruguay's navy enhanced detection, tracking, and combat capabilities previously unavailable. The vessels' armament will be supplied by Escribano, including a 30mm main gun mounted on the Sentinel 30 system and two 12.7mm machine guns, one on each side of the ship, in 2.0 mounts.

The Uruguayan Navy is currently undergoing modernisation efforts to revitalize its aging fleet. It focuses on maintaining a smaller but more efficient force, geared towards addressing non-traditional threats such as illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing, drug trafficking, and maritime crimes.

The country's extensive Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) presents significant operational demands for the Navy, which increasingly relies on patrol vessels and maritime surveillance.

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CARDAMA - Press January 09 2025

First payment made for Uruguay's OPV construction

By Alejandro Sanchez

09 January 2025

(<https://www.janes.com/osint-insights/defence-news/industry/first-payment-made-for-uruguays-opv-construction>)

Cardama Shipyard received a first payment of EUR8.2 million (USD8.4 million) from Montevideo for the construction of two offshore patrol vessels (OPVs) for the National Navy of Uruguay, the Spanish shipyard confirmed on 18 December.

The first virtual meeting between the Uruguay navy and Cardama Shipyard also occurred on 18 December to formally commence the project. The meeting included the service's General Director of Naval Materiel Rear Admiral José Manuel Ruiz Tocci, who has been selected as the programme's lead and will be the liaison with the Spanish shipyard, and Mario Cardama, Cardama's director general, the navy confirmed on 23 December.

The shipyard told Janes that it is moving forward “in all areas of the project”.

The OPVs will have a length of 86.75 m, will displace 1,542 tonnes, and a platform for a helicopter; the weapons systems will include a 30 mm cannon and a 12.5 mm machine gun.

In October 2024 Uruguay's Minister of Defense Armando Castaingdebat announced that the first OPV will be delivered in 2026.

