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New Selex ES Hawk-S thermal camera launches with Royal Navy

Selex ES, a Finmeccanica company, has announced its new SLX Hawk-S camera at DSEi 2013. The UK Royal Navy, via prime contractor MSI-Defence Systems, will be the launch customer for the new product. The Hawk-S is a medium wave Thermal Imaging (TI) camera with a continuous zoom lens which can provide a resolution of up to 1.3 Megapixels. MSI-Defence Systems has placed an order for 18 of the cameras with associated engineering support to replace the current Albatross cameras in the Royal Navy's Automated Small Calibre Gun systems.

The Hawk-S camera employs the same high-performance detector and image processing electronics as Selex ES's other SLX range cameras, but the smaller form factor allows it to be a direct 'drop in' replacement for the heritage naval thermal imager market. Compared to traditional naval thermal imagers, the SLX Hawk-S significantly enhances image quality and performance at long range.

"We're pleased that our latest thermal imaging camera has been so quickly embraced by a user as demanding as the Royal Navy" said Mike Gilbert, SVP Optronics at Selex ES, adding; "Designed to address obsolescence management purposes with existing electro-optic payloads in-service with the UK, the Hawk-S is also readily exportable for new systems to improve the user's long-range gun fire control".

Selex ES's thermal imaging cameras are already proven in operations with UK Forces, equipping platforms including the Mastiff armored vehicle and Chinook helicopter. The cameras provide crews with high-resolution night vision capabilities, allowing them to operate safely and effectively 24 hours a day in all weather conditions.