

20 November 2008

CEAFAR radar achieves sea demonstration milestone

The ANZAC ASMD Upgrade Project successfully demonstrated the CEAFAR active phased array multi-function radar installed on an ANZAC Frigate, HMAS PERTH off the coast of Western Australia.

CEAFAR is one of the most advanced maritime multifunction radar systems in production. Being a fully digital beamforming system, it can dynamically adapt and change modes to meet complex environmental and threat scenarios. Its scalability is enabled by the tile based face architecture and the digital beamforming backend. This makes CEAFAR suitable for consideration in applications as small as offshore patrol craft and as large as destroyers and cruisers.

The risk reduction and data collection objectives of the at-sea demonstration were successfully achieved in significantly less than the planned time frame. This enabled additional capabilities to be assessed during the sea going opportunity.

Activities included tactical air and surface scenarios involving multiple aircraft and ships, small targets representative of anti-ship missiles and weapon systems. These were conducted in littoral and open ocean maritime conditions and included the complex electromagnetic environments associated with multiple warships and aircraft.



At-sea demonstration team and installed Dual Face

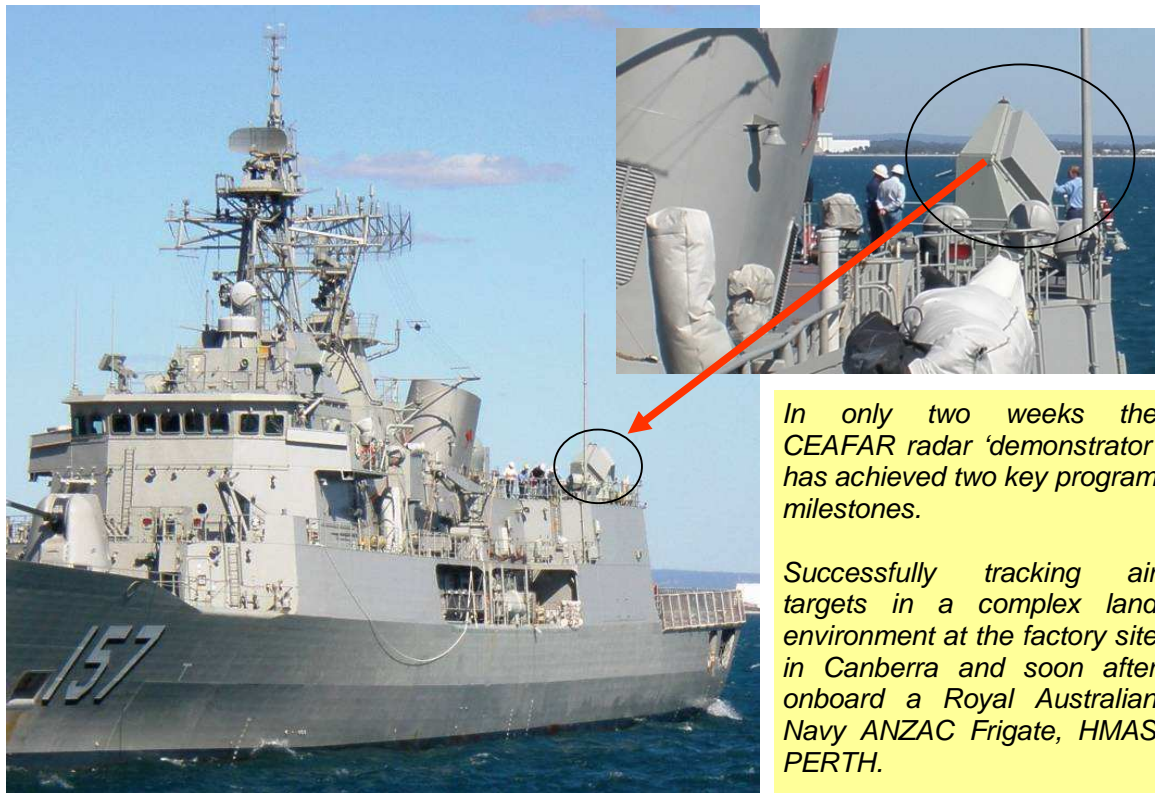


The at-sea demonstration followed a successful land-based demonstration of the same production hardware at CEA's Canberra facilities on the 6th of November. The faces used in the demonstration were from the first production run and had been delivered on schedule from the company's production line in July 08. This same dual faced configuration was then transported by road from Canberra to the Royal Australian Navy's Fleet Base West (FBW), Western Australia for the installation process; arriving just 4 days before the planned sailing time.

CEA's Technical Director Ian Croser said today, "This is an exciting outcome with the extra work required to achieve such a tightly scheduled sea demonstration a credit to the engineering integration and test team who worked tirelessly to ensure the success of the program's ambitious objectives. The system was declared operationally ready for the at-sea period just three and a half days after its arrival at FBW."

The simplicity of its architecture and construction enabled the at-sea demonstration to be conducted in the very short timeframe, which was achieved by the combined resources of the ANZAC ASMD Project team, HMAS PERTH, the ANZAC Ship Alliance and CEA staff.

“This early at sea demonstration of the CEA FAR capability is part of an overall Commonwealth strategy of advance demonstration of the system before installation into the first ship. The radar performed beyond expectations and the success of the sea trial now represents a very significant risk reduction step for the whole program.” concluded Ian Croser.



In only two weeks the CEA FAR radar 'demonstrator' has achieved two key program milestones.

Successfully tracking air targets in a complex land environment at the factory site in Canberra and soon after onboard a Royal Australian Navy ANZAC Frigate, HMAS PERTH.

The ASMD Upgrade Project will ensure the Royal Australian Navy's ANZAC Frigates have an enhanced level of self defence against modern anti-ship missiles. It will also improve the ANZAC Frigates ability to provide close-in protection to an amphibious maritime task group, supporting the Royal Australian Navy's future Air Warfare Destroyer area air defence capability. The CEA Phased Array system is a critical component of this capability.

CEA Technologies is a world leader in advanced radar technologies and is based in Canberra, Australia.

For further information contact: Sandra Lumsden, +61 (0)2 6213 0012