Unmatched security.
New capabilities.
Stronger economies.
Moving forward together.

Hellenic Future Frigate

Invigorating Greek Shipbuilding
Shipyard Transformation through Investment

LOCKHEED MARTIN AND FINCANTIERI MARINETTE MARINE’S PARTNERSHIP

Over 17 years ago, the United States Navy awarded contracts to two teams to develop its new surface combatants: The Littoral Combat Ship. Lockheed Martin and Fincantieri Marinette Marine (FMM), were trusted with building these fast and agile ships known as the ‘Freedom Class’ in the small Midwestern town of Marinette, Wisconsin. In 2009, Fincantieri Marinette Marine and Lockheed Martin partnered to bid on 10 LCS as part of a “Block Buy” competition. To achieve the required throughput to construct the ships to meet the required cadence and target cost identified by the U.S. Navy, Fincantieri Marinette Marine invested over $120 million to modernize the shipyard. This private investment helped the shipyard achieve full-rate production and created thousands of new American manufacturing jobs at a time when they were desperately needed.

Together, Lockheed Martin and Fincantieri Marinette Marine transformed the processes and infrastructure at the U.S. Fincantieri Marinette Marine shipyard to enable the dynamic shipbuilding capability we see there today.

As a result of this re-capitalization and partnership, the Lockheed Martin – Fincantieri team has received orders for 16 Freedom-variant Littoral Combat Ships, 10 delivered ships and 6 ships are in various stages of production and completion. In addition, 4 Multi-Mission Surface Combatants for Saudi Arabia were also ordered via Foreign Military Sales (FMS), adapting LCS into a very capable multi-mission surface combatant.

In 2004, the FMM shipyard was not even paved with cement and employed less than 1,000 employees. Pictured below, the Fincantieri Marinette Marine Shipyard had basic capabilities but needed decisive and modern upgrades to deliver a capable naval platform to the customer. Lockheed Martin and Fincantieri Marinette Marine knew that the success of their team was linked to the growth of the shipyard. Fincantieri S.P.A invested over $120 million in a foreign shipyard in order to elevate the basic shipbuilding capabilities in Marinette to deliver the Freedom class LCS combatants to the United States Navy. Spread over the next 13 years, this large investment included expansion of facilities, new building for painting, new building for cutting, making panels, module assembly and larger warehouses.

Pictured below in 2017, the Fincantieri Marinette Marine shipyard is one of the most modern shipyards in the United States and continues to deliver ships to the United States Navy while concurrently building the Royal Saudi Naval Forces MMSCs. Through Lockheed Martin’s partnership with FMM, the processes and infrastructure at the FMM shipyard have changed, enabling the current dynamic capacity. These changes enable the now 2,500 workers who enter the yard each day to deliver enhanced production capacity. With these improvements in infrastructure and employee specialization, FMM has become one of the largest manufacturers in the Wisconsin and Michigan area. FMM has been able to sustain its workforce by executing commercial contracts between military shipbuilding programs due to the capacity and capability created over the past 17 years. Additionally, the on-site technical training provided by FMM to its employees has created opportunities for long-term careers and has created the conditions to have some of the best employees in their field in the U.S.

The construction of Hellenic Future Frigate will be completed in Greece, increasing the shipbuilding capabilities of the country while at the same time creating thousands of high quality jobs for the coming decades.

Like the FMM shipyard, Greek shipyards have a stable tradition in the shipbuilding industry. Just as Lockheed Martin partnered with FMM to modernize its shipyard, the Lockheed Martin – Fincantieri team will support Greek shipyards in the planning of their revitalization efforts and help introduce them to modernized construction techniques as well as the ship assembly line. Lockheed Martin and Fincantieri Marinette Marine are committed to using and adapting the successful model of cooperation with FMM in Marinette to Greek shipyards to enable recapitalization of the Greek shipyard to facilitate not only construction of the Hellenic Future Frigate, but also opportunities to build commercial ships as well as be a regional maintenance hub for military vessels and voyage repairs.