

Socomec equipment powers Barracuda class submarines

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Launched in July in Cherbourg, the Suffren nuclear attack submarine, the first of the Barracuda series, is equipped with on-board power converters manufactured by Socomec. Thus begins the plunge into a long series...

On-board power converters



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The Suffren, the first of the French Navy's new Barracuda series of nuclear attack submarines, designed to replace the Rubis generation, was launched on July 12 in Cherbourg in the presence of the President of the Republic. Ultimately, there will be six Barracuda class submarines, built by Naval Group, the leading European shipbuilder in the defence sector. In the words of Vincent Martinot-Lagarde, Director of the Barracuda programme at Naval Group, Socomec has delivered the on-board power converters for this "extraordinary programme". To date, the Alsace-based Group has provided the equipment for the first three submarines in the programme; three others are to be equipped by 2022.

Special technological expertise

"This contract has enabled us to develop complex on-board energy conversion systems," said Ivan Steyert, CEO of Socomec. "To successfully carry it out, we have been able to draw on our technological expertise in project management and quality assurance. It is a unique experience for our company, both in terms of design and production."

New programmes

The Naval Group's approval of this expertise will enable Socomec to extend its offering to other naval programmes both in France and abroad. The Socomec Group, with its HQ in Benfeld, is therefore well positioned to supply equipment for the six nuclear attack submarines that France is preparing to deliver to Australia. In France, major new programmes are under way such as the replacement of old power converters for second-generation missile submarines and the design of equipment for the upcoming third-generation submarines.

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