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Rheinmetall's NEOSS: excellent vision capabilities for small vessels

A passive system for observing and reconnoitring targets must be able to operate day and night, including under adverse weather conditions. Exact target identification and determination of the target's position are essential for target assignment and fire control purposes.

Rheinmetall has developed a standalone observation and reconnaissance sensor which can be easily mounted to a mast: the high-performance NEOSS, standing for "naval electro-optical stabilized sensor system". At IDEX 2013, visitors can take a closer look at this modular, fully digital electro-optical director (EOD).

Specifically designed for smaller vessels, NEOSS can operate as a standalone system and offers interfaces to external sensors and effectors such as radar or guns.

In the standard sensor configuration, it consists of three units: a sensor head, which contains a thermal imager, high-resolution colour CCD camera and an eye-safe laser rangefinder; a stabilized pan and tilt head; and the operator and control unit.

The stabilized NEOSS provides an around-the-clock vision capability, including under conditions of poor visibility. Its integrated eye-safe laser rangefinder can be used to generate 3-D tracking data. Furthermore, the video processing unit includes automatic target reconnaissance (ATR) and line of sight (LOS) functions. The combination of ATR and pre-programmable search patterns enables automatic area surveillance.

Key missions of the EOD include coastal surveillance, detection, recognition and identification, border control and observation, search and rescue support, target allocation from/to radar, LWS, ESM, target assignment to effectors and/or navigation support.

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