

Thales launches Watcher, a smart Man Machine Interface for tactical radios

Today at IndoDefense, Thales introduces Watcher, a full radio remote control allowing communicating with every single Thales radio on the battlefield. Innovative and easy to use, Watcher helps armed forces improve their situation awareness while giving them the opportunity to communicate on the move.

This innovative and smart solution confirms Thales's position as a full solution provider in the field of communication systems for the battlespace.

Today, armed forces are involved in a wide spectrum of operations, from humanitarian aid to high intensity conflicts. Tactical communication systems supporting these different missions are thus crucial for Forces which have become more and more mobile.

Carried like a wrist watch and very easy to use, Watcher avoids to stop for having access to the radio and enables any kind of communication on the move. This universal Man Machine Interface can connect to Thales's tactical radios including the HF (Skyf@st), the VHF (PR4G and PR4G F@stnet), the St@rMille, FlexNet and at last the new F@stnet-Twin Software Defined Radio.

Compact, lightweight and ruggedized, this smart remote control device enables a wireless communication (Bluetooth) up to 10 meters or wire connection and makes easier the use of the radio and increases its operational features.

Being aware of the situation, taking the right decisions quickly, manoeuvring the forces preparing the adequate actions is essential for highly mobile missions. Watcher provides all the communication needs of the armed forces today, ensuring information dominance and real time situation awareness guaranteeing mobility at all levels in a seamless interoperability.

"Through the unique relationship Thales has with many armies, we are very sensitive on the importance of imagining innovative solutions to ease soldiers' duty on the battlespace", said Patrice Caine, Thales Vice-President in charge of Radio Communications activities. "With Watcher we provide something new that gives unsurpassed advantages on the battlefield, providing the highest level of communication availability. Watcher is the result of the unequalled experience in military radio-communications we have been developing for more than 70 years".

Thales is a world leader in defence communications for land forces with experience spanning 70 years and more than 800,000 radio sets sold in 43 countries all over the world. Thales designs and integrates radio solutions for a broad range of platforms, including armoured vehicles, helicopters, dismounted infantry and special forces.

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About Thales

Thales is a global technology leader for the Defence & Security and the Aerospace & Transport markets. In 2009, the company generated revenues of €12.9 billion with 68,000 employees in 50 countries. With its 22,500 engineers and researchers, Thales has a unique capability to design, develop and deploy equipment, systems and services that meet the most complex security requirements. Thales has an exceptional international footprint, with operations around the world working with customers as local partners. www.thalesgroup.com

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