Aeromaritime Group launches Aeromaritime Impact Portugal and appoints Admiral (Rtd) Henrique Gouveia e Melo as Chairman and CEO

Former Chief of Staff of the Portuguese Navy will also advise the Group Board, as Vice Admiral (Rtd) João Luís Dores Aresta joins to lead business development across Portugal, South America and Africa

Paris, 6 November 2026

Aeromaritime Group, the naval communications systems group, today announces the official launch of Aeromaritime Impact Portugal, a new subsidiary based in Oeiras. Admiral (Rtd) Henrique Gouveia e Melo, Chief of Staff of the Portuguese Navy from 2021 to 2024, has been appointed Chairman and CEO of Aeromaritime Portugal and joins the Group as Advisor to the Board. He is joined by Vice Admiral (Rtd) João Luís Dores Aresta, former Director-General of the Portuguese Maritime Authority and Commander-General of the Maritime Police, who will lead business development for Portugal, South America and Africa. Portugal gives the Group a base on Europe's Atlantic edge and close links with Portuguese-speaking countries in South America and Africa.

Aeromaritime Portugal will focus on developing partnerships with the Portuguese industry and start-ups that would add to Aeromaritime's growing portfolio of products, continuing to deliver additional and complementary capabilities. The launch is part of the Group's international expansion programme in 2026, which also includes the launch of Aeromaritime Türkiye.

Admiral Gouveia e Melo spent much of his naval career in the Portuguese submarine service, which he joined in 1985. He commanded the submarines NRP Delfim and NRP Barracuda, and later the Submarine Squadron. He went on to serve as Naval Commander from 2017 and as Commander of EUROMARFOR until 2019. In 2021 he led Portugal's national COVID-19 vaccination task force, before being promoted to Admiral and appointed Chief of Staff of the Navy and National Maritime Authority, a post he held until December 2024.

"Having spent a significant part of my career in submarines and later playing a leading role in transforming the Portuguese Navy towards robotics, autonomous systems and a hybrid naval force, I have always believed that the future belongs to those who anticipate change rather than simply adapt to it," said Admiral (Rtd) Henrique Gouveia e Melo, Chairman and CEO of Aeromaritime Portugal.

"This forward-looking vision is what I now will try to bring to the Aeromaritime Group. My ambition is to make Aeromaritime Portugal a catalyst for innovation, bringing together startups, industry and naval expertise to accelerate the development of robotic, autonomous and distributed warfare capabilities.

"At the heart of this transformation lies a critical enabler: reliable, resilient and secure communications — Aeromaritime's core expertise. But the challenge goes far beyond transmitting messages and information. It is about transforming information into knowledge, knowledge into coordinated decisions, and decisions into synchronized action across distributed forces.

"That is how we move from connected platforms to intelligent, integrated naval systems — and how Aeromaritime can help shape the next generation of naval capabilities, in Portugal and internationally."

Vice Admiral João Dores Aresta's career includes service as Director-General of the Portuguese Maritime Authority and Commander-General of the Maritime Police, Commander of the Madeira Operational Command, and International Maritime Security Advisor to the Chief of Staff of the Navy, with a particular focus on maritime security in the Gulf of Guinea. He participated in several NATO and national operations, namely in Afghanistan, Adriatic Sea, Caribbean Sea, Angola and Guinea-Bissau, among others.

"*Portugal's ties across the Atlantic and with Portuguese-speaking nations give us a natural starting point,*" said Vice Admiral (Rtd) João Luís Dores Aresta, "*Navies and maritime authorities in South America and Africa are responsible for long coastlines and vast sea areas, where maritime security is a matter of major concern. To assist these regions in implementing innovative and reliable solutions, based on new robotic capabilities and resilient communications systems, will contribute to regional and global security is a challenge requiring immediate action. I look forward to being part of this process, building the required relationships on behalf of Aeromaritime.*"

Portugal opens opportunities for the Group, both in its own naval programmes and as a gateway to partners in South America and Africa, and complements what Aeromaritime already offers. Admiral Gouveia e Melo and Vice Admiral Dores Aresta bring decades of operational and leadership experience at the very top of the Portuguese Navy and Maritime Authority. Under their leadership, Aeromaritime Portugal begins with a deep understanding of these navies and the communications on which they depend.

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About AEROMARITIME Group

AEROMARITIME brings together communications engineering specialists to design and deliver secure, interoperable systems for defence and security organisations worldwide.

With more than 850 systems installed across 50 navies in over 45 countries, the Group supports a wide range of naval platforms, from submarines and offshore patrol vessels (OPVs) to frigates and destroyers.

The group has a presence across three continents and has six subsidiaries.

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