EDGE Group and Fincantieri Move to Jointly Develop Underwater Solutions



- MAESTRAL JV to be tasked with the design, development, and construction of underwater systems
- Official signing of the MoU took place at the EURONAVAL exhibition in Paris

Abu Dhabi, UAE / Trieste, Italy/ Paris, France: EDGE, one of the world's leading advanced technology and defence groups, and Fincantieri, one of the largest shipbuilding companies in the world, today signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), opening new channels for strategic collaboration in the high-potential underwater domain. The MoU would see both groups collaborate on the design, development, and creation of advanced manned and unmanned underwater systems solution capability in the United Arab Emirates through their recently launched, Abu Dhabi-based shipbuilding joint venture, MAESTRAL. This preliminary agreement will pave the way and boost for developing sophisticated solutions tailored to the unique underwater needs of navies worldwide.

This collaboration marks EDGE Group's first venture into underwater domain, enabling both organisations to share expertise and leverage extensive technical and production resources to develop a range of innovative, interoperable manned and unmanned products – further advancing the UAE's sovereign capabilities in cutting-edge defence technologies, for the benefit of the UAE and other navies worldwide.

The MoU was signed by Hamad Al Marar, Managing Director & CEO, EDGE Group, Dr. Pierroberto Folgiero, CEO & Managing Director, Fincantieri Group, and witnessed by Khaled Al Zaabi, President – Platforms & Systems, EDGE, Dario Deste, General Manager of the Fincantieri Naval Vessels Division together with other representatives of the Naval Vessels Division, at EURONAVAL, the world's leading naval defence exhibition, currently being held in Paris.

Pierroberto Folgiero, Fincantieri CEO and Managing Director, said: "*This agreement between Fincantieri and EDGE underscores a commitment to pioneering advancements in underwater technologies, combining engineering excellence with a forward-thinking approach. The underwater domain presents unique challenges, from fluid dynamics to communication and autonomy, which demand innovative and resilient solutions. Together, we aim to develop systems that meet the highest standards of interoperability, addressing critical needs within both the defence and energy sectors. Our efforts are dedicated to setting new benchmarks in safety, resilience, and environmental responsibility in underwater operations, contributing significantly to both national capabilities and global maritime security*".

Hamad Al Marar, Managing Director & CEO, EDGE, said: "*In just five years, EDGE has boldly expanded its reach across every domain of advanced technology and defence. From the outset, we recognised that only through collaboration and partnership could we develop the technologies and expertise necessary for EDGE to lead in the air, land, sea, cyber, and space domains. Our ongoing partnership with Fincantieri exemplifies this strategy, opening limitless opportunities for both companies in the joint development and production of advanced surface and underwater naval solutions*".

The MAESTRAL Joint Venture concentrates on sales, commercial operations, and engineering for design and service of surface and underwater vessels and products, while providing valuable employment opportunities for highly skilled local and international talent.