

FRANCE-USA

NO FRONTIERS FOR SOGITEC KNOW-HOW

The contracts in progress between Sogitec and American companies illustrate an unbroken relationship with the United States and are the fruit of faultless commercial performance and acknowledged competence.

When it is a matter of seeking capabilities wherever they happen to be, in general, frontiers no longer exist. Neither do oceans. This statement applies, for example, to relationships between the two sides of the Atlantic where diplomatic tensions, when they exist, have never lasted longer than random climatic changes, and reciprocal acknowledgement of industrial competence and know-how has never been questioned. The presence of Sogitec in the United States is the tangible proof of this. In continuation of its basic strategy, focused on image generation and projection systems, Sogitec exhibits long-standing practice on the American market in which it has always offered this dual capability. Lockheed, at the end of the 1980's was the first customer on this market for target projection systems on the study simulator for the future F-22. At a later stage, Mc Donnell Douglas was equipping its helicopters with GI 10,000 image generation system.

The happy outcome of a commitment appreciated on site

Very recently, Sogitec was able to verify that the simulation world was a rather small one and that faultless commercial performance in this field could be happily and unexpectedly prolonged. Sogitec was in fact directly consulted by the American company L-3 Communications (Link Division), former competitor for the UAE Air Force contract (see page 11); this proves that Sogitec services and the commitment of its teams for the end user site had been highly appreciated. This call for tenders, which relates to the supply of target projectors, directly results from a very good reputation and from regular contacts. We should also point out that within the context of the Eurofighter contract (NATO), Sogitec has been chosen for the supply of equipment for about thirty simulators, which must probably contribute to enhancing this reputation on other side of the ocean. →



→ A "100 percent compliant" supply requirement

For this new contract, the aircraft are different –F-18's of the US Navy, manufactured by Boeing (Saint Louis) and deployed on two Naval Air Stations (NAS) in the United States, in Lemoore, California and Oceana, Virginia– and the direct customer is American. Both bases, equipped with domes each having 14 projection heads, will receive target projectors supplied by Sogitec in the context of the upgrading of their simulation systems subcontracted by Boeing to L-3 Com. The final acceptance phase by the US Navy for NAS Lemoore took place up until spring 2005. The installation of target projectors in NAS Oceana will begin by summer 2005. The maturity of its in-house running places Sogitec at the level required by the customer's severe requirements. Sogitec's ISO 9001-2000 certification is the mark of the existence of a real customer satisfaction process, acknowledged throughout the world. Even more useful is the existence of additional opportunities for these two

NAS bases or even others, equipped with identical simulators. Sogitec is however ready to provide the same solutions for other types of aircraft.

The future in line of sight

Finally, the aircraft of the future are also of interest to Sogitec, which is again in contact with Lockheed Martin, in the context of the JSF (Joint Strike Fighter) contract won by the aircraft manufacturer. In January 2005, Sogitec responded to a call for tenders relating to the supply of visual systems and radar simulations and sensors for the various types of simulators of the aircraft: two "full mission" simulators with a fixed base dome, one with 360° projection and the other with reduced field coverage; a third type of simulator deployable in a mobile armoured casemate (shelter). Through this consultation, Sogitec has great hopes of strengthening its presence on the American continent. It also proves that Sogitec is exemplary in its relationship as a supplier.



TRAINING SIMULATOR

High resolution four-target projection on high gain dome screen in a Mirage 2000-9 simulator. Sogitec supplied the complete visual system (imaging, target projection, sensors) common to the French and American (F-16) aircraft of the United Arab Emirates Air Force.

An American chooses Sogitec among American competitors

On the verge of the 21st century, it was in quite an other part of the world that Sogitec cooperated again with American aircraft and equipment manufacturers. It is in fact to the benefit of the United Arab Emirates Air Force, equipped with both the Dassault Aviation Mirage 2000-9 and the Lockheed Martin F-16, that Sogitec was chosen by the American aircraft manufacturer (itself facing two powerful American competitors) to supply a complete visual system (imaging, target projection, sensors) and, above all, common to the simulators of the two aircraft fleets (see Interactions No. 20, June 2001). The objective was to ensure the interoperability of the simulation systems with possible networking.

Two types of systems were selected for the F-16s, i.e. three trainers and a mission simulator, and Sogitec supplied the aircraft manufacturer with the visual systems for each of them. For the first type, it was a Medallion X image generator associated with a three-channel projection system on a cylindrical screen and a data base identical to that of the Mirage 2000-9. For the second one, Sogitec supplied a Medallion X associated with a high gain dome screen of eight-metre diameter and equipped with an eight-channel projection system, plus a high resolution four-target projector.

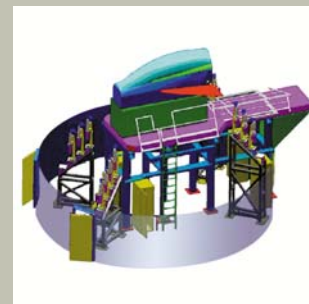
The visual systems were delivered to the simulation subsidiary of Lockheed Martin, located in Akron, Ohio. The acceptance phase began in December 2004 and transfer to the UAE customer site should take place by summer 2005. ■



TP-Panoramic: target projector with panoramic head



US Navy F-18



Staircase installation of 14 target projectors around F-18 cabin



TP-Compact: target projector with deviation head

A 14-HEAD TARGET PROJECTION SYSTEM

In the context of the upgrading of mission simulators for the F-18s of the US Navy, Sogitec is supplying the target projection sub-system to the American company L-3 Com, subcontracted by Boeing, the aircraft manufacturer. The simulators are Weapon Tactic Trainers installed under a fixed dome for training pilots equipped with a helmet sight ("Look, Lock, Launch").

For each simulator, Sogitec is producing a TPS (Target Projector System) with 14 TPHs (Target Projector Heads). The TPH must be able to project seven targets simultaneously in the total field of vision of the pilot, which requires the coupling of one pair of TPHs for each target. The TPHs are installed in steps on either side of the cabin and out of the field of vision of the pilot, thus covering the complete visibility diagram in elevation and in azimuth. The "handover" between the TPHs of a same pair is carried out in a vertical, circular strip outside of the frontal field.