

Defense Debrief

WORTH A READ:

1 **The “Level Pillar Approach to Collaborative Development** ([Article Link](#))

France and Germany are moving forward with development of a next-gen tank, dubbed the Next-generation Main Ground Combat System (MGCS). While this system will not enter service until the 2040 to 2045 timeframe, the impacts of this decision will be felt sooner due to the novel work share agreement established to share production across French and German manufacturers.

To design, develop, and produce the MGCS, KNDS Deutschland, KNDS France, Rheinmetall Landsysteme, and Thales are expected to establish a "joint project agreement" with 50/50 workshare evenly split across France and Germany. The joint project agreement between four vendors across two nations will utilize a "level pillar approach" through which the MGCS industrial plan will be broken into eight pillars: platform, traditional firepower, innovative firepower, connectivity, sensors, simulation, protection and infrastructures. This structure is designed to ensure even workshare between all parties while also maximizing the unique skills of each vendors and driving efficiencies.

Industry should closely watch the maturation of the MGCS program to see if the level pillar approach becomes the desired model for European countries to manage industrialization requirements for future platforms.

2 **AUKUS Pillar II Advancing Undersea Warfare Technology** ([Article Link](#))

Sharing a progress update coming out of AUKUS Pillar II with the announcement of four lines of effort focused on undersea warfare:

- a) A torpedo tube launch and recover capability for a small unmanned underwater vehicle
- b) Subsea and seabed warfare capabilities
- c) Undersea AI applications
- d) Torpedoes and platform defense

The first three initiatives are particularly interesting test beds for AUKUS Pillar II as the US Navy has struggled to advance UUV, seabed warfare, and undersea AI applications and cross the valley of death. Pillar II is designed explicitly to increase the speed to field for critical technologies and demonstrating success in the undersea domain would go a long way to bolster confidence with industry partners that AUKUS Pillar II is an initiative in which they should participate.

WORTH A LISTEN:

3 **Landpower in the Pacific** ([Episode Link](#))

I encourage anyone interested in the role of the US ARMY within INDOPACOM to give a listen to the “Landpower in the Pacific” episode of the Modern War Institute podcast with General Charles Flynn, commanding General of US Army Pacific. General Flynn articulately shares his vision of the US Army Pacific, clearly outlining the role of the Army in a theater dominated by the worlds largest ocean.

In the words of General Flynn, “contrary to popular believe, INDOPACOM is often referred to as an air and maritime theater, but it is actually a joint theater with joint and multinational challenges that will only be solved by joint and multi-national solutions...US Army Pacific provides foundational capabilities at scale and at echelon that no other service provides.”