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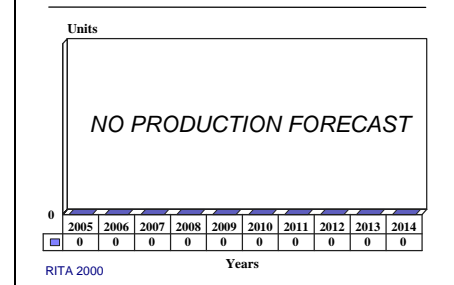
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RITA 2000 - Archived 9/2006

Outlook

- RITA 2000 became operational in 1999
- Forecast International will archive this report in September 2006
- Should new information concerning RITA 2000 become available, Forecast International will reissue this report

10 Year Unit Production Forecast
2005 - 2014



Orientation

Description. RITA 2000 is a tactical communication network manufactured by Thales. RITA 2000 provides secure voice, data, and facsimile communications to stationary and mobile users of the French armed forces.

Sponsor

Thales

45, rue de Villiers
Paris, France 92526

Web site: <http://www.thalesgroup.com>

Status. Operational

Total Produced. Through 2004, some 291 RITA 2000 systems had been produced.

Application. Communications

Price Range. Not applicable.

Contractors

Thales, <http://www.thalesgroup.com>, 45, rue de Villiers, Paris, 92526 France, Tel: + 33 1 57 77 80 00, Fax: + 33 1 57 77 86 59, Prime (Operation and Maintenance)

Technical Data

Network Management System. The NMS 2000 Network Management System is the brain of the RITA 2000 system. The NMS 2000 provides the signal commander and his staff a series of computer-assisted tools enabling them to plan the deployment of the entire network, supervise the proper operation of the network, assign frequencies to all the radio equipment that compose the network, and prepare and manipulate the switch database that defines the rights of the network subscribers. All these functions are accessed through a user-friendly man-machine interface.

Switching. Switching at all levels of RITA 2000 is performed by the tactical ATM switch ATS 2000 designed by Thales. The ATS 2000 provides circuit-switched services and packet-switched services to individual subscribers and local area networks (LAN). The ATS 2000 switch also optimizes bandwidth utilization, and can accommodate most ISDN and TCP/IP commercial terminals available on the market.

Line-of-Sight Transmission. Line-of-sight transmission is performed by a EUROCOM-compatible, multi-channel, line-of-sight, UHF, tactical radio designed to operate in hostile electronic environments. The radio

can operate in frequency hopping or fixed frequency. The radio's architecture allows full band frequency hopping without restrictions, and does not require contiguous band segments.

Encryption. Encryption of multi-channel links is performed by the TRC 7450 Bulk encryption unit manufactured by Thales. This unit provides independent ciphering-deciphering of three full duplex links operating at any standard rate between 256 and 2,048 Kbps. The TRC 7450 is compatible with all transmission bearers, including satellite links.

Single-Channel Radio Access. The PR4G VHF radio manufactured by Thales provides single-channel radio access. The PR4G provides voice and X.25 data communications in the battlefield environment.

Communication Node. RITA 2000 communication nodes are composed of one or two sheltered assemblages installed on military tactical vehicles. The set-up and tear-down times of the nodes are shorter than 30 minutes.

Variants/Upgrades

Software and hardware supporting the RITA 2000 is upgraded on an ongoing basis.

Program Review

Background. RITA originated in the 1960s, when initial concept studies and experimental evaluations were performed. Field trials using experimental prototypes were performed during the mid-1970s. In 1977, contracts were awarded for full-scale development and production of RITA. Then, in 1981, RITA began to be deployed in both France and Belgium. In November 1985, it was announced that RITA had won the competition to fulfill the U.S. Army Mobile Subscriber Equipment (MSE) requirement (estimated to be worth at least \$4.3 billion). The RITA system was used on a large scale for the first time in NATO exercises in 1987.

In the summer of 1992, the French defense procurement agency DGA notified Thales that it could begin the first block of development work on the communications system upgrade of RITA. In early 1998, the DGA awarded a production contract to Thales Communications. Thales called the upgraded RITA system RITA 2000.

In June 1998, Thales deployed RITA 2000 for the first time during the Eole exercise (a multinational training

program). Later in 1998, Denmark awarded Thales Communications a contract for an undisclosed number of RITA 2000 systems, scheduled for delivery in 1999. In November 1999, the French Army simultaneously deployed RITA 2000 and the French Automated Command and Control System (SICF) for the first time.

In October 2001, DGA awarded a contract to Thales Communications for work on the French Army's RITA 2000 tactical communications network. Under the agreement, Thales developed new Internet Protocol (IP) and high-data-rate capabilities for the system, as well as supplying some 100 RITA 2000 network stations to the French Army by the end of 2003.

In August 2003, Thales received a contract from the DGA for RITA 2000 support work. Under the agreement, Thales will supply hardware and software life-cycle support and upgrade services, as well as a new software version for the CECORE network command center.

Funding

Funding for RITA 2000 is provided by the countries that purchase it.

Contracts

No recent contracts have been identified.

Timetable

| <u>Year</u> | <u>Major Development</u> |
|-------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1960-71 | First studies of experimental network, and first generation experiments begin |
| 1972-75 | Second generation "breadboard" models, experimental unit set up; field trials commenced |

| <u>Year</u> | <u>Major Development</u> |
|-------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1976-77 | Industrialization contracts finalized |
| 1979 | Production of first standard equipment units |
| 1981 | Deployment of RITA begins in France and Belgium |
| 1984 | RITA fielded by two French Army Corps and one Belgian Army Corps |
| 1985 | RITA wins the Mobile Subscriber Equipment (MSE) competition |
| 1986 | French and Belgian armies equipped with RITA |
| 1987 | Belgian RITA used for first time in NATO exercises; Thales develops advanced version of RITA |
| 1992 | Development of digital version (ValoRITA) approved |
| 1995 | Digital version systems tested |
| 1998 | Thales awarded Danish and French contracts for production of RITA 2000 |
| 1999 | RITA 2000 enters full operational service |
| 2001 | DGA awards Thales a contract to develop new Internet Protocol and high-data-rate capabilities for the RITA 2000 |
| 2003 | Thales receives a contract from DGA for RITA 2000 support work |

Worldwide Distribution

Belgium, Denmark, France, and the United States have purchased RITA 2000 equipment.

Forecast Rationale

RITA (Reseau Intégr  de Transmissions Automatique) 2000 is a tactical communication network manufactured by Thales. RITA 2000 provides secure voice, data, and facsimile communications to stationary and mobile users of the French armed forces. RITA 2000 became operational in 1999.

Given the lack of detailed public information regarding RITA 2000, Forecast International will archive this report in September 2006. Should specific information become available, Forecast International will reissue this report.

Ten-Year Outlook

This report will be archived in September 2006. As such, Forecast International has **omitted** the Ten-Year Outlook chart.

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