

## News Release

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### **MASS CONTINUES TO SUPPORT MARITIME ANTI-PIRACY OPERATIONS**

The European Council has extended the mandate for European Union Naval Force Somalia (EU NAVFOR) - Operation ATALANTA - until 31 December 2018, which means Cohort company MASS will continue to provide the Classified Mission Network for the enduring Operation.

Operation ATALANTA was launched in December 2008 to contribute to the deterrence, prevention and repression of acts of piracy and armed robbery off the Somali coast. The operation also protects vessels of the World Food Programme and other vulnerable shipping, monitors fishing activities off the coast of Somalia and supports other EU missions and programmes in the region.

MASS provides the core operational mission network for the effective command and control of this multi-national Operation both ashore and afloat. This advanced capability enables secure transmission of classified information over the open internet helping all users to achieve optimum access and connectivity wherever they are operating.

Jens Weber, Head of IT Systems for Op ATALANTA, commented "Due to the huge Area of Operations and geographical spread of assets and personnel, the Operation depends on a communications system that is flexible, reliable and robust. MASS has provided such a system since 2014. Working with MASS has ensured Op ATALANTA personnel know their communications needs are met allowing them to concentrate on the operation to protect seafarers from Somali pirate attack."

Ashley Lane, Managing Director of MASS, said "I am delighted that we continue to support the EU Naval Force in its fight against piracy. Our secure communication network, along with its 24-hour rapid-response support service, will allow those involved in the mission to maintain operational effectiveness through robust and secure connectivity, irrespective of their location. "

**- Ends -**

**Notes to Editors:**

**Cohort plc** is an independent technology company and the parent company of four innovative, agile and responsive businesses, EID, MASS, MCL and SEA, providing a wide range of services and products for UK, Portugal and international customers in defence, security and related markets.

[www.cohortplc.com](http://www.cohortplc.com)

**MASS**, acquired by Cohort plc in 2006, is an Electronic Warfare Operational Support, Cyber Security, Secure ICT networks and Support to Operations business serving customers primarily in defence and security markets. MASS delivers tailored, integrated solutions that are critical to customers' ability to deliver effective operations. An intrinsic expertise in system engineering and project management enables MASS to deliver through-life capability in the form of high technology solutions, training and trusted managed services, underpinned by a contract research and development capability. MASS also utilises these capabilities to serve the government, business and education markets.

Based near St. Neots, Cambridgeshire, with a state-of-the-art training facility in Lincoln, MASS employs over 290 people, including operational and technical experts, academics, engineers and technical specialists.

[www.mass.co.uk](http://www.mass.co.uk)

For more information on **EU NAVFOR**, please visit [www.eunavfor.eu](http://www.eunavfor.eu) or follow @EUNAVFOR on Twitter.

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