NATO Signals Intent to Expand Maritime ISR Capability with Northrop Grumman's MQ-4C Triton



NATO intends to expand its ISR Force fleet with MQ-4C Triton's unmatched maritime surveillance capabilities. Photo Credit: Northrop Grumman

ANKARA, Türkiye – NATO has signed a letter of intent to expand its intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR) force by pursuing acquisition of Northrop Grumman's MQ-4C Triton aircraft. This action signals NATO's commitment to enhance allied maritime security and situational awareness.

- Four nations signed the LOI at the NATO Summit Defense Industry Forum.
- Working closely with NATO, the U.S. Navy and trans-

Atlantic industrial partners, Northrop Grumman would build and deliver the aircraft. Key European industry partners would deliver components of the ground station and supporting data processing infrastructure.

- NATO has operated Northrop Grumman's RQ-4D Phoenix (Global Hawk variant) from Sigonella, Italy, providing commanders with vital ISR data that informs joint decision making.
- MQ-4C Triton adds unmatched maritime surveillance capabilities and operates collaboratively with crewed platforms across domains through the intelligent, timely exchange of data. It complements the Phoenix fleet by expanding NATO's organic ISR assets, enhancing surveillance coverage across the alliance's northern, eastern, and southern flanks. Given its lineage to the Global Hawk family of aircraft, Triton offers opportunities to leverage cost-saving synergies in operations, maintenance and training with the existing Phoenix fleet.

"Our collaboration with NATO and the U.S. Navy strengthens the Alliance's ground and maritime surveillance capabilities. Like Phoenix, Triton conducts ISR at higher altitude and with longer endurance than medium-altitude systems, and is poised to provide NATO new levels of capability and operational flexibility to monitor and protect maritime interests from the Mediterranean to the High North," said Jane Bishop, vice president and general manager of Northrop Grumman's global surveillance division.

Built for the U.S. Navy and the Royal Australian Air Force, the multi-intelligence MQ-4C Triton supports missions including maritime patrol, signals intelligence and search and rescue. It delivers unmatched persistent surveillance that anticipates adversary behavior, enabling better planning and joint military responses. Triton builds upon Northrop Grumman's autonomy and high-altitude, long-endurance

leadership to provide unmatched maritime surveillance capabilities.