

## PRESS RELEASE

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April 10, 2026**TKMS and the German Aerospace Center (DLR) are expanding their strategic partnership to protect critical infrastructure**

- ◆ TKMS and DLR sign a memorandum of understanding and pool their expertise in key technological areas.
- ◆ In addition to the protection of critical maritime infrastructure, the collaboration also focuses on quantum technology, maritime technologies, simulation, and systems engineering.

**Kiel, April 10, 2026** – TKMS and the German Aerospace Center (DLR) have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to deepen and systematically expand their existing collaboration. The goal is to combine their respective extensive expertise for joint research and development activities and to create synergies.

The collaboration focuses, among other things, on the protection of critical maritime infrastructure, quantum technology, ship technologies, as well as simulation and systems engineering.

Jeronimo Dzaack, Senior Vice President of Ocean X, explains: “With this memorandum of understanding, TKMS is strengthening its strategic and goal-oriented partnership with the DLR. Together, we can combine our strengths and develop innovative security and communication solutions to shape the maritime ecosystem of the future.”

A key project is the model-based establishment of a seamless network from space to the seabed. This is intended to close existing gaps—such as in remote or hard-to-reach areas—in the future and enable a reliable situational picture in real time.

Another focus is on the protection of critical maritime infrastructure. As part of the collaboration, vehicles such as the SeaCat autonomous underwater drone—developed by TKMS and its TKMS ATLAS ELEKTRONIK segment—will also be deployed. The drone delivers high-resolution underwater situational imagery, thereby supporting the creation of robust maritime situational awareness.

“The challenges we face in the maritime sector, particularly with regard to resilient infrastructure, are complex and interdisciplinary. They can only be overcome through strategic cooperation between industry and research. A comprehensive exchange of knowledge is the foundation of our shared success,” emphasizes Frank Sill Torres, Head of the DLR Institute for the Protection of Maritime Infrastructures.

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With the signed memorandum of understanding, TKMS and DLR are laying the foundation for a long-term, interdisciplinary cooperation.

### **About TKMS**

TKMS is one of the world's leading naval companies with more than 9,100 employees (including temporary workers) at three shipyards in Kiel, Wismar and Itajaí (Brazil), and with locations worldwide. The company is active as a systems supplier for submarines and naval surface vessels as well as for maritime electronics and security technologies. Around 3,300 employees work at the Kiel site, making it the largest shipyard location in Germany. 185 years of history and the constant striving for improvement allow the company to set new standards time and time again. TKMS offers its customers worldwide tailored solutions to meet the highly complex challenges of a changing world. The driving forces behind this innovative energy are the company's employees, who shape the future of TKMS with passion and commitment every day.

More information at: [www.tkmsgroup.com](http://www.tkmsgroup.com)

### **About the German Aerospace Center**

The German Aerospace Center (Deutsches Zentrum für Luft- und Raumfahrt; DLR) is Germany's national research and technology centre for aeronautics, space, energy, transport, security and defence. DLR's work spans a wide range of applications, delivering results and innovations that benefit industry and business, government agencies and the public sector. At the heart of DLR's mission is its commitment to society, which it fulfils through extensive knowledge sharing and targeted technology transfer. Therefore it is funded through federal resources. The German Space Agency at DLR is responsible for planning and implementing German space activities on behalf of the federal government. Additionally, two project management agencies at DLR manage research and industrial funding programmes.

More information at: <https://www.dlr.de/en>

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