

## Case Study

### Romanian Navy

VT Flagship delivers total training package for the Romanian Navy's Type 22 Frigates



### The Client

Two ex-Royal Navy (RN) Type 22 frigates, HMS Coventry and HMS London, were regenerated and updated for the Romanian Navy, becoming the Romanian ships Regele Ferdinand and Regina Maria. The regeneration included crew training provided by VT Flagship, under a £116 million BAE Systems contract with the UK's Ministry of Defence.

Prior to commissioning these two Type 22 frigates, the Romanian Navy, which has more than 7,500 sailors, had only one other locally designed frigate. The Type 22's were acquired in order to enhance the Navy's deepwater capability and to contribute to NATO operations.

### The Challenge

VT Flagship was responsible for managing the total training package for both ships and for the delivery of onboard training for the Regele Ferdinand, which was commissioned in 2004, and the Regina Maria, commissioned in 2005.

We were uniquely placed to manage the programme due to our partnering agreement with the RN.

The aim was to bring two fully-trained Romanian crews up to the highest of safety standards, where they could be handed over to the RN's Flag Officer Sea Training (FOST) to undergo Preliminary Sea Training. Pre-Joining Training courses delivered by the RN also had to be tailored and delivered to a budget which needed tight control over training options.

The main requirement was to train crew members in their specific duties, and to develop and set to work the operational framework for the ship. We also had to keep in mind that the crews were unfamiliar with Western procedures and culture, and considered this during the planning stages of the training project.

“This was a well structured, effectively delivered programme that produced a crew capable of meeting the stringent requirements of Flag Officer Sea Training.”

**David Leitch - International Future Solutions Director  
BAE Systems**



## How VT Flagship Helped

The two ships required a complete training solution for their crews. To achieve this, FOST was involved at various stages to assess progress and readiness for the next level of training.

All of the VT Flagship team involved in the project had in-depth knowledge and expertise in all areas:

- VT Flagship project managed the complete programme, supervised the training provided by the Original Equipment Manufacturers, and arranged the RN-based training for the crews, which totalled over 200 personnel per ship
- The complete eight-week onboard ship training package encompassed: Duty Watch Training, a week of consolidation training, Harbour Training and Sea Training
- We used our unique partnering agreement with the RN to arrange training for legacy equipment onboard, developing a bespoke package for each ship
- To overcome the language barrier onboard, fluent English speakers were identified within the crew in order to assist understanding for other crew members
- A flexible approach enabled us to identify shortcomings and changes that needed to be made, with constant liaison between both ships and the prime contractor (BAE Systems)
- Prior to the handover of the ship, Duty Watch Safety Training was conducted, which required working around the essential regeneration work being carried out by members of FSL (now a part of BVT Surface Fleet) and BAE Systems, without jeopardising completion of the very tight engineering programme
- The crews' learning experience was tangibly measured as their ship knowledge improved

## The End Result

- VT Flagship successfully completed a full training package for the crews, that together make up approximately 5% of the Romanian Navy
- The project was completed on time and the two ships successfully passed through FOST before making a safe passage back to Romania, prior to involvement in NATO exercises
- This project highlighted our capability in warship crew training. The successful completion of Preliminary Sea Training by both ships represents a significant achievement for the project team and the culmination of a considerable amount of preparation