



Multi-Mode, Multi-Band RF Distribution System (M3B RFD) Chosen for Royal New Zealand Navy's New MSC Ship, Aotearoa.

August 8, 2017 - RF PRODUCTS, INC. (RFPinc), in Camden, New Jersey announced today that it received a contract to provide a complete VHF/UHF Multi-Mode, Multi-Band RF Distribution System (M3B RFD) for the Royal New Zealand Navy's (RNZN) Maritime Sustainment Capability Project (MSC) ship.

The award to RFPinc was a subcontract from SAAB Danmark A/S, the Denmark based Communications System Integrator (CSI), as the result of a competitive Request for Tender for a CSI by Hyundai Heavy Industries Shipyard (HHI) in Ulsan, South Korea. RFPinc worked with SAAB and participated in the overall radio system design and in writing the M3B RFD section of the SAAB proposal submitted to HHI. In the original RFT for the MSC ship, the Royal New Zealand Navy required an M3B RFD for the MSC, and RFPinc was named in the requirements as a current M3B RFD solution provider.

On 18 July 2016 New Zealand Defence Minister Gerry Brownlee announced that the government had approved the purchase of the new naval tanker from HHI to "support a full range of NZDF deployments, including maritime sustainment and humanitarian and disaster relief operations."

RFPinc's M3B RFD enables MSC radio system operators to more easily adapt platform external communications to changes in mission focus between hostile and humanitarian missions, or a combination of both. RFPinc's M3B RFD includes all of the RF equipment, including high power amplifiers, required between all of the M3B radios and the antennas distributed on the ship's mast. The M3B RFD enables the operator to quickly and easily change radios between bands and modes either singularly or all at the same time. The control of the complex RFD is simplified via RFPinc's patented Remote Control RFD Digital Dashboard (R2D2™).

"RFPinc has been in the military RF tuning business since 1921 and we have been building on that background toward this level of overall radio and RFD system performance through the last 15 years of IR&D investment and experience delivering to other customers" said Frank Arlotta, RFPinc Vice President of Sales, Marketing and System Engineering. "RFPinc has the first and still the only Type Designated airborne RFD, the ARC-233. We are excited about the MSC contract because it proves that RFPinc's M3B RFD building-block design is useable across different ship classes, whilst using the same part number boxes in different combinations for different M3B RFD architectures. This keeps Navys' fleetwide production, logistics and training costs to a minimum. RFPinc's M3B RFD is being installed on the Royal Australian Navy's ANZAC Frigates. Although the ANZAC Frigates and the MSC have different architectures, they use many of the same part number boxes. Governments will be able to see a more significant return on their investment in modern radios through increased and improved ship and aircraft communications capabilities."

This was RFPinc's second win to provide hardware for RNZN ships. In 1991 RFPinc won the contract to provide UHF Multicouplers for use with the old generation, single-band radios originally installed in the RNZN Frigate construction phase.