



## **MASA Group, ahead of the Race in the Evolution of Simulation Software for Defense**

**The French MOD have appointed both MASA Group and *Thales* to develop further the SCIPIO system, given the new context of increasing military threats and the evolution of the missions of land forces in urban environments.**

Paris, June 16<sup>th</sup> 2008. Creator of the simulation engine of the SCIPIO system – simulation system for french land forces HQ, **MASA Group** have just won as co-contractor with ***Thales land and joint***, a new multi-million euro contract for the upgrading of this system to the new standard required by the ever-changing nature of conflicts and the evolution of the missions of the French Army.

Like many of their counterparts from other major western powers, the French Army is mainly involved in operations overseas and in particular, engaged in multi-national peace keeping missions. This evolution does not change the general tactical, operational and strategic warfare rules, but does require a dramatic adjustment to doctrine, due to the ever increasing urban operations context and the ever reduced conventional threats that soldiers are trained for. Professional soldiers have to cope with terrorist threats that do not, by their nature, respect the regular rules of war. Peace keeping or peace enforcement missions now routinely take place in complex urban terrain.

It is of paramount importance to take all of these factors into account in the training of commanding officers at all levels, in order to prepare them to respond and adapt to any situation on the ground.

SCIPIO is a training simulation system based on a human behavior model, a highly powerful and effective technology developed by **MASA Group**. This technology is also used in its “**SWORD™** officer training” system. The new version of **SWORD™** is to be introduced during **EUROSATORY 2008**. SCIPIO has been used by the French land forces since 2005 and makes it possible to simulate complex armed engagements and more specifically to deal with new doctrine in the most extreme and unexpected situations with high levels of automation.

**MASA Group** and ***Thales land and joint*** new tasks are to push the SCIPIO system forward while taking into account the dual issues caused by the changing nature of the threat and missions induced by terrorist actions. SCIPIO will allow for the handling of operations in urban terrain and non-conventional armed force conflicts. This evolving urban threat doesn't follow the usual patterns, placing civilians at risk. The SCIPIO system will soon include the types of irrational motivations and behaviors associated with terrorists, having a great impact on decision making in military engagements where civilians are present.

## **More about MASA (Applied Mathematics France) Group**

**MASA Group** is a software company specializing in High Tech and whose purpose is the exploitation of state of the art artificial intelligence solutions to support decision making, resource saving and the creation of virtual human intelligence for the defense, homeland security and games markets . **MASA Group** offers the following products and services:

- simulation engine, human behaviors, for defense and homeland security and games;
- autonomous avatars for virtual worlds such as second life ;
- optimized solutions for waste management and logistics;
- statistical machine learning in order to improve the process control in industries such as semi-conductor production.

**MASA Group** was created in 1996 and has been enjoying the support of Qualis, its main share holder.

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