French armed forces GenIAI.intradef and the Mistral AI framework agreement

IMPLEMENTED 2023-2026 · DEFENCE AND SECURITY · FRANCE · BAND D · CLAIMED ONLY
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The ministry built its own generative AI assistant, GenIAI.intradef, on open-weight models hosted on its secure network and opened it to all staff from early 2025. In December 2025 it notified a framework agreement with Mistral AI, steered by its defence AI agency AMIAD, to deploy Mistral models on ministry infrastructure.

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AT A GLANCE

AI used: Generative AI assistant on open-weight models fine-tuned in-house and hosted on the ministry's secure network, plus a framework agreement for Mistral AI models.

Implemented: 2023-2026. Grade: band D, Task support, Claimed only.

Headline result, as reported: About 35,000 users by April 2025 and 45,000 regular monthly users by February 2026, by officials' accounts in the press

1 · The case

The facts, as reported by the 6 sources listed at the end. Where a source is silent, the field says "Not reported".

Organisation

Ministere des Armees (French Ministry of the Armed Forces). France's defence ministry, with about 300,000 staff in its administration, per Econostrum. Its defence AI agency, AMIAD, oversees the Mistral AI framework agreement. This synopsis covers organisational adoption, procurement and governance only. Canvas block: 5. People and skills. Also 6. Data and technology, 8. Governance and risk.

Business challenge

The challenge. From August 2023 the ministry wanted its own sovereign version of the public chat assistants, in part to stop staff turning to unapproved AI tools, by officials' accounts. Sensitive data had to stay on ministry systems.

How it was addressed. The general secretariat's data and AI expertise centre built GenIAl.intradef on openly available models fine-tuned with ministry vocabulary, hosted on the secure Intradef network. After a prototype in December 2023 and a scale-up limited by available GPU capacity, it was opened to all civilian and military staff from the start of 2025, offering a chat assistant, summaries, translation, transcription and text recognition. In December 2025 the ministry notified a framework agreement letting its forces, directorates and bodies under its authority, including the atomic energy commission, the aerospace research office and the navy's hydrographic and oceanographic service, use Mistral AI's models, software and services on French infrastructure. In January 2026 the government's efficiency plan asked the ministry to offer the structure of the tool to other ministries. [1] [2] [3] [4] [5] [6]

Who implemented it

In-house (In-house): Ministere des Armees: data and AI expertise centre of the general secretariat for administration, with AMIAD: built, fine-tuned and hosts the assistant; AMIAD oversees the Mistral agreement.
Mistral AI (Model or cloud provider): Framework supplier of models, software and services; the assistant runs on a Mistral model restructured in-house, per Acteurs Publics.
Elastic (Software vendor): Technology the platform was built on, per Le Monde Informatique.

Technology (SEAM pillar E)

SEAM types: T1 Chat assistants, T6 Open-source / locally hosted models. Deployment: Own infrastructure. Vendors and products: Mistral AI, Elastic, GenIAl.intradef, Mistral AI models.

Where it was built in: Runs on Intradef, the ministry's secure intranet, on staff workstations, with access planned from business applications through an API. Functions include a chat assistant, summarising, translation, transcription and text recognition.

What changed

Before: no approved generative AI tool for work on the secure network. After: a ministry-wide assistant, with about 35,000 users by April 2025 and 45,000 regular monthly users by February 2026, by officials' accounts. Processes, staffing and budgets: no change reported. [1] [2] [3] [4] [5] [6]

What it cost

Not reported. The value of the Mistral AI framework agreement is not reported.

What it saved

Not reported as a total. Officials give examples: round trips on staff notes between drafters and reviewers cut from 10 to 2, per Le Monde Informatique, and some tasks cut from two hours to five minutes, per Econostrum. [1] [2] [3] [4] [5] [6]

Governance and control

AMIAD oversees the framework agreement. The ministry says staff remain solely responsible for their decisions, data stay on its own network, inputs and outputs are logged with need-to-know access, and models must meet criteria on open weights, risk and licences. Independent assurance: Not reported.

S2 · Accountable owner · Claimed
The Mistral framework agreement is overseen by the ministry's defence AI agency AMIAD; GenIAl was built by the data and AI expertise centre of the general secretariat for administration, by the ministry's account. [1] [3]

A1 · Safe use · Claimed
The ministry put the assistant into production quickly to head off unapproved shadow AI use, and runs it only on its secure network, by officials' accounts. [2] [6]

A2 · Human in the loop · Claimed
The ministry says the tool will not replace people and that the member of staff remains the sole actor in their own decisions. [1]

A3 · Monitoring and assurance · Claimed
Inputs and outputs are stored with need-to-know access, requests are checked and generated images watermarked, by officials' accounts in the press; no evaluation is published. [2] [6]

A4 · Vendor AI · Claimed
Models must meet the ministry's criteria on open weights, risk evaluation and licences, and Mistral's solutions are to be deployed on ministry infrastructure. [2] [4]

A5 · Agent controls · Not reported
Not reported.

A6 · Standards and regulation · Not reported
Not reported.

What worked, what did not, what is unproven

WORKED

– Uptake: about 35,000 users within months of opening the tool to all staff, by officials' accounts.

– A small team: 1.5 full-time equivalents on the mid-2023 prototype, about ten engineers for the scale-up, by officials' accounts.

– Fine-tuning on ministry vocabulary, including its acronyms, by officials' accounts.

DID NOT

– Scale-up in 2024 was held back by limited GPU capacity on ministry infrastructure, by officials' accounts.

– Feedback was mixed, with some users sceptical about possible errors, and an armed forces comptroller saying there is no right to error on such sensitive subjects, per Econostrum.

UNPROVEN

– Time saved across the ministry, beyond individual examples.

– What the Mistral framework agreement changes in practice: in January 2026 AMIAD said it would now start identifying the first use cases.

– Whether other ministries take up the structure of the tool.

Timeline

Aug 2023 Ministry decides to build an in-house sovereign assistant; a prototype follows in December 2023 [2]

Apr 2025 About 35,000 users and more than 1,000 connections a day [2]

Jan 2026 Ministry announces a framework agreement with Mistral AI, overseen by AMIAD [3]

Jan 2026 Government efficiency plan asks the ministry to offer the structure of its tool to other ministries [5]

Feb 2026 45,000 regular monthly users among 300,000 staff reported [6]

2 · Grade and SEAM assessment

MarLuc's opinion, made on the evidence above. How cases are graded: marluc.co.uk/case-studies/how-we-rate

Level of change and impact

Claimed: Not applicable. Grade: D, Task support. Proof: Claimed only. Level of change: Task support.

Task support (Level 1, band D). Staff do the same work with a general assistant; no process, staffing or budget change is reported.

Task support: staff use a general assistant for drafting, summaries, translation and transcription. The ministry reports time saved on individual tasks; no change to processes, staffing or budgets is reported. The Mistral framework agreement is a procurement step whose first use cases were still to be identified in January 2026.

The SEAM view and lessons learnt

Adoption came from building in-house to the ministry's own security rules and giving staff an approved alternative to public tools. User numbers are reported, but the time savings are examples from officials and cannot be separated from the wider investment they sit on, including a secure internal cloud and bought-in computing capacity. Before copying this, a leadership team should decide how it will measure benefit beyond user counts, and compare the cost of running its own model platform with buying one.

1. Offer an approved tool early if staff are already using unapproved ones.
2. Measure time saved and quality of output, not only user numbers.
3. Set model criteria on weights, risk and licences before choosing suppliers.

Evidence

Score 1 of 4. Self-reported: a ministry press release and ministry officials quoted by Le Monde Informatique, Acteurs Publics, Reuters and Econostrum.

Evaluation method. Self-reported: usage figures and time savings from ministry officials quoted in the press; no evaluation published.

Sources disagree. Acteurs Publics reports that the assistant runs on a Mistral model restructured in-house; Le Monde Informatique quotes the centre's head saying the ministry does not fix on a

3 · Original sources

Read these in full. To challenge a fact or a grade, use the contact form at marluc.co.uk or the link on https://marluc.co.uk/case-studies/french-armed-forces-genial-mistral

[1] Ministere des Armees: Le ministere des Armees se dote d'une plateforme d'IA generative multiservices, press release (12 February 2025, French)
https://prod-site-internet-minarm-admin.cloud.defense.gouv.fr/sites/default/files/ministere-armees/Communiqu%C3%A9_Le%20minist%C3%A8re%20des%20Arm%C3%A9es%20se%20dote%20d%E2%80%99une%20plateforme%20d%E2%80%99IA%20g%C3%A9n%C3%A9rative%20multiservices.pdf

[2] Le Monde Informatique: Le ministere des Armees deploie son assistant GenAI (3 April 2025, French)
https://www.lemondeinformatique.fr/actualites/lire-le-ministere-des-armees-deploie-son-assistant-genai-96507.html

[3] The Star (Reuters): France's armed forces ministry awards Mistral AI framework agreement (8 January 2026)
https://www.thestar.com.my/tech/tech-news/2026/01/08/france039s-armed-forces-ministry-awards-mistral-ai-framework-agreement

[4] Acteurs Publics: Le ministere des Armees signe un accord-cadre avec le champion francais de l'IA Mistral (January 2026, French)
https://acteurspublics.fr/articles/le-ministere-des-armees-signe-un-accord-cadre-avec-le-champion-francais-de-lia-mistral/

[5] Acteurs Publics: Plan Etat efficace, le ministere des Armees doit mettre a disposition son outil souverain d'IA (January 2026, French)
https://acteurspublics.fr/articles/plan-etat-efficace-le-ministere-des-armees-doit-mettre-a-disposition-son-outil-souverain-dia/

[6] Econostrum: Defense, le ministere des Armees developpe sa propre intelligence artificielle (February 2026, French)
https://econostrum.info/?p=131155

Ministere des Armees (French Ministry of the Armed Forces) website: https://www.defense.gouv.fr

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