A rescue out at sea with the Electro-Optical System
Dark night, low ceiling, raging sea

Euroflir 410 in action!

Alive!

High-tech surveillance

A quick, effective rescue

A storm is brewing...

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from where the last radio call was received. This

Just a few minutes later, the operator suddenly cries out,

Euroflir 410 electro-optical system

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was received about 20 minutes ago, from the owner of a sailboat that lost its mast in the Chenal du Four, a channel off the western tip of Brittany, between Le Conquet and Béniguet Island.

Furthermore, not only is the sailor’s radio not answering, but no distress beacon has been activated.

sensor operator, an electronics specialist in charge of the sensors on aircraft deployed by the French navy

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observe and detect

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Video Background

operation is automated

scan the zone

But since the emergency call, they have lost radio contact! The mast falling could have caused a leak, and the ship risks a fuel spill. The helicopter’s crew is an attempt by one of the lifeboats deployed by the Le Conquet branch of the national maritime rescue organization SNSM (Société Nationale de Sauvetage en Mer).

Once he arrives at the squadron’s base, Loïc gets a quick rundown on the situation from one of the staff members at the regional monitoring and rescue center, while his fellow crew members get the helicopter ready.

several kilometers

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I’ve got a hot spot in sector 182, range five nautical miles!

on the ocean surface.

Despite the gusting wind, the Caïman Marine hovers over the hull. The rescue swimmer is winched down, and quickly buckles up.

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Loïc is eating dinner with fellow crew members on call when his cell phone starts ringing. He jumps up as soon as he hears the special ring tone he chose for calls from his helicopter squadron 33F.

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The waves in this sector are nearly three meters high, and the sailboat is only seven meters long. Loïc quickly asks for details about the color of the boat and the sea and wind conditions. With a Force 5 wind, it’s not going to be easy!

hoisting operations during air-sea rescue missions

function in the electro-optical system, a

and guides the pilot so they can cover the search zone most effectively. Hunched over his console, he first decides to

Yann, Gwendal and Adrien also jump into their car to join the squadron. Yann is the pilot, and Gwendal the co-pilot, also...

crew chief for this mission. Assigned to the navy’s dedicated SAR helicopters, he coordinates the different sensors from a central console in the cabin. He’s also in charge of

Mounted on the helicopter’s nose, under the cockpit, the electro-optical system is used to

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The helicopter is now flying over endless waves, and the tension inside is at a peak. The last position sent by the ...

drifted a number of kilometers already. After about 20 minutes, with the helicopter flying at over 140 knots (161 mph),

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even in the dead of night and during a storm.

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