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MBDA prepares VL MICA land systems for delivery

While the first VL MICA naval surface-to-air defence systems are being delivered to customers, the production of VL MICA land systems for an export customer is in full swing ready for deliveries starting in 2012. In this respect, the equipment produced and assembled in MBDA's facilities in France has been deployed at a French Air Force airbase, where the various vehicles will be networked to validate a standard operational configuration.

The French Air Force has already taken part in the VL MICA land programme in 2009 which carried out the technical and operational assessment of the VL MICA demonstrator. This activity was an element of the SALVE (*Sol-Air à Lancement Vertical* - in English: ground-to-air, vertical launch system) technical demonstrator programme notified to MBDA by the DGA (the French armament procurement agency) in 2005.

MBDA's Chief Executive Officer Antoine Bouvier declared: "While our customers are receiving their initial vessels equipped with our surface-to-air VL MICA systems, MBDA facilities are currently preparing the land version of the product. The DGA, the armed forces and MBDA have worked in close cooperation, making VL MICA a true industrial success which can already boast four export customers".

Background information

With industrial facilities in four European countries and within the USA, in 2010 MBDA achieved a turnover of € 2.8 billion with an order book of € 10.8 billion. With more than 90 armed forces customers in the world, MBDA is a world leader in missiles and missile systems.

MBDA is the only group capable of designing and producing missiles and missile systems that correspond to the full range of current and future operational needs of the three armed forces (land, sea and air). In total, the group offers a range of 45 missile systems and countermeasures products already in operational service and more than 15 others currently in development.

MBDA is jointly held by BAE SYSTEMS (37.5%), EADS (37.5%) and FINMECCANICA (25%).

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