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CAMM

MBDA is developing a common missile that will meet the anti-air target guided weapons needs of future sea, land and air-based operations. Given that the target set, ranging from fast jets and helicopters to supersonic cruise missiles and sea-skimming anti-ship missiles, is similar across these operational areas, a solution maximising modularity and commonality has obvious cost and logistics benefits. The common missile solution that MBDA is advancing is the CAMM (Common Anti-air Modular Missile) missile. The common missiles are termed:

- CAMM(M) for Maritime
- CAMM(L) for Land
- CAMM(A) for Air

The cost benefits of a common weapon system across multiple platforms are manifold. Economies will be evident in terms of logistics and support costs. Substantial savings in development costs can also be made when shared across several capability areas. An open architecture will also facilitate incremental upgrades to remove potential future obsolescence in capability, functionality and technology thereby enabling an extended life.

Maritime

CAMM(M) provides a 360° air defence capability for naval forces out to ranges greater than 25km against the current and future air threat. Requiring no dedicated tracker/illuminator radars, CAMM can be cued by a ship's standard target indication data to provide high levels of protection against multiple simultaneous targets in open ocean and littoral environments. It can also be used against surface targets. The weapon system, which incorporates a 2-way data-link to CAMM missiles in flight, is intended for vessels of corvette size or larger, for either new ships or as a retrofit. CAMM(M) launch canisters are compatible with SYLVER and Mk41 family launch silos with CAMM utilising features such as folding missile fins to maximise launch canister packing density. The introduction of "soft launch" techniques reduces system mass and allows for more flexibility in terms of installation positions on a ship. MBDA has taken a Through Life approach in developing the CAMM solution. New weapon system architectures that reduce customer costs by removing expensive components are now possible. MBDA's PAAMS (Principal Anti-Air Missile System) naval self, local and fleet area defence weapon system has now established a preferred architectural approach to air defence. CAMM(M) follows this approach by re-using software and substituting new low cost components.

Land

CAMM(L) will provide future land forces with an easily transportable and rapidly deployable local area air defence system capable of operating as a stand alone unit or of being integrated within a future battlespace network. The small foot-print of a CAMM launch site and the low-signature of a CAMM launch increases survivability of air defence assets. CAMM(L) is capable of engaging Non Line of Sight (NLOS) targets if 3rd party targeting information is available; this feature is particularly attractive for engaging concealed Attack Helicopters and low-flying terrain-following cruise missiles. CAMM(L) is logistically easy to manage with packs of CAMM(L) canisters slotting into launcher frames, so there is no need for man-handling of actual missiles onto launch rails.

Air

The CAMM missile is easily adaptable for air launch from Fast Jets. With modular seeker options and the latest datalink technology, CAMM(A) offers a next generation air-to-air capability. CAMM(A) benefits from MBDA's experience on the world leading ASRAAM and Meteor air-to-air missile products.

Programme status

CAMM(M) will be the first CAMM variant to enter service, with a planned ISD currently of 2016 for the Royal Navy's Type 23 Frigates.

CAMM is designed with the export market in mind and thanks to its modular design CAMM can be easily tailored to particular nation's requirements.