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## **MEADS**

MEADS (Medium Extended Air Defence System) is a next-generation, ground-mobile air and missile defense system that incorporates the hit-to-kill PAC-3 MSE Missile, 360-degree radars, netted and distributed battle management and high-firepower launchers. The system combines superior battlefield protection with new flexibility to protect forces and critical assets against tactical ballistic missiles, cruise missiles, unmanned aerial systems and aircraft.

MEADS is being designed to meet challenging new requirements not addressed by any single previous system.

When completed, MEADS will be the only Air and Missile Defence System able to roll off tactical transports with the troops and begin operations almost immediately. More importantly, its open architecture will provide for 21st century Air and Missile Defence system-of-system integration capabilities that allow operational mission-tailoring for homeland defence or defence of manoeuvre forces in various theatres countering air-breathing and tactical missile threats. Plug-and-Fight capability lets MEADS elements attach to and detach from the network at will, with no requirement to shut the system down. MEADS improves capability to defend troops and critical assets through improvements in range, interoperability, mobility and full 360-degree defense capability against the evolving threat. MEADS defends up to eight times the coverage area with far fewer system assets and significantly reduces demand for deployed personnel and equipment, which reduces demand for airlift. MEADS is intended to provide significant operation and support cost savings.

### **Program Status**

The system-level critical design reviews (CDR) were passed and completed at the end of August 2010. Representatives of the NATO contracting agency NAMEADSMA and all program nations have assessed the results of the design work positively and approved progression to the system integration and test phase. The first launcher and the first BMC4I tactical operations centre (TOC) were handed over to MEADS International at the end of 2010. System integration and tests of the main components has already commenced in Italy.

The programme is a joint cooperation between the United States, Germany and Italy. After completing the risk reduction effort phase with a successful system demonstration in 2004, the three participation nations awarded in 2005 to MEADS International Inc., a joint venture between euroMEADS (LFK – now MBDA Deutschland - and MBDA IT) and Lockheed Martin, the contract for the System Design and Development (MEADS D&D Contract).