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Airspeed to explore advanced composite material manufacturing techniques for MBDA's MMP missile for LAND400

MBDA Australia today announced a new contract with South Australian composite company Airspeed.

Under this contract, Airspeed will use its advanced aerospace composite manufacturing techniques to explore alternative production options for the MMP anti-tank guided missile launch tube.

"MBDA is offering its MMP missile as part of the \$20 billion Land 400 project, It is the only fifth generation anti-tank guided weapon (ATGW) that is in production and in service today, and represents the cutting edge of technology, design and performance," MBDA Australia Managing Director, Andy Watson said.

"It is only natural for MBDA to work with Airspeed to develop similarly cutting-edge production techniques that could create more efficient and cost effective manufacturing methods," Mr Watson said.

"The work that Airspeed will do on this project is a real demonstration of Australian high-tech capability in the defence industry and opens up future global supply chain opportunities with MBDA," he said.

"MBDA's approach to Australian Industrial Capability is based on two principles: 1) ensuring the Federal Government has the highest level of independent capability in its use of the missile and 2) generating real opportunities for Australian industry.

"As we have said for some time now, our aim is for MMP to become the first missile that is built, maintained and evolved in Australia and I see this contract as a major step in delivering that vision," Mr Watson said.

Airspeed managing director, Steve Barlow, said "we are thrilled to work with MBDA on this project, which is a vote of confidence not only for our company, but the wider Australian defence industry."

The contract with Airspeed is the latest in a series of agreements with Australian companies that has established a comprehensive industrial partnering network for MBDA Australia and builds on MBDA's established record for technology transfer locally.

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Notes for editors

About MBDA

With a significant presence in five European countries and within the USA, in 2016 MBDA achieved a turnover of 3.0 billion euros with an order book of 15.9 billion euros. With more than 90 armed forces customers in the world, MBDA is a world leader in missiles and missile systems. MBDA is the only European 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 owned by Airbus (37.5%), BAE Systems (37.5%), and Leonardo (25%).

About Airspeed Pty Ltd

Airspeed is an Australian company specialising in the application of composite materials for aerospace, maritime and energy-related projects. Design capabilities encompass all aspects of engineering pertaining to composite materials including Finite Element Analysis, Computational Fluid Dynamics and 3D Computed Aided Design. Airspeed's manufacturing capabilities include multi-axis filament winding, autoclave-cured, vacuum-bagged & oven-cured or resin-infused laminates using carbon, aramid and glass fibres.

Press Contact MBDA

Andy Watson

Tel : +61 (0) 2 6212 3011

Mob : +61 (0) 459 814607

mbda.australia@mbda-systems.com