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### ROYAL GUARD OF OMAN CARRIES OUT FIRST OPERATIONAL FIRING OF MBDA'S VL MICA SYSTEM

On 24 September 2012, the Royal Guard of Oman (RGO) successfully carried out the first operational firing of a VL MICA missile. The firing, using the RGO's own VL MICA Ground Based Air Defence (GBAD) system, took place at the Abeer test range located in the centre of the Sultanate of Oman in the presence of the highest political and military authorities in Oman.

All aspects of the firing exercise, which included the detection, interception and destruction of an ATARID target flying at more than 14 km range from the VL MICA missile launcher, were completely successful.

For the test firing, an operational VL MICA missile equipped with an RF seeker was used.

The VL MICA GBAD system, delivered to the RGO by MBDA and operating in stand-alone mode under the control of its own Tactical Operation Centre, detected the target with its 3D radar (TRML3D supplied by EADS Cassidian).

This operational exercise saw the 19<sup>th</sup> successful firing of a VL MICA missile. VL MICA has not had a single firing failure since the beginning of its development trials in 2003. Significantly, the RGO firing marked the first ever operational use of the land-based VL MICA system by an export customer.

#### Notes to editor

With industrial facilities in five European countries and within the USA, in 2011 MBDA achieved a turnover of 3 billion euros with an order book of 10.5 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 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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