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ENHANCED ERYX REGISTERS 100 % SUCCESS RATE

Eryx, the infantry short-range fire support weapon, now features new night targeting capabilities and a new training simulator. During its first international evaluation in October 2009, the new Eryx registered eight hits out of eight firings.

During its first export demonstration, carried out in the Gulf at the beginning of October, the enhanced Eryx anti-armour system registered a 100% hit rate during a test firing campaign which comprised a total of eight shots. Of these eight shots, four were carried out at night with the aid of the latest generation thermal sight designed for adaptation on the Eryx firing post.

As well as proving the new enhanced night capabilities, the firing campaign also enabled well known Eryx features to be confirmed: suitable for firing within confined spaces, exceptional penetration capability against reinforced concrete and ease of operation. With regard to the latter feature, the client's own evaluators fired the majority of the missiles having previously undergone only two hours' training on the simulator.

The new Eryx thermal sight replaces the classic, cooled infrared detectors with a new, non-cooled bolometric sensor which brings various advantages. Without a cooler, the new thermal sight is totally silent and therefore more discreet for night combat. Other advantages associated with the new sighting system include reduced weight, increased reliability and prolonged battery life. Rather than losing sensitivity, this non-cooled sight actually provides an augmented range for detection, reconnaissance and identification, a range which significantly exceeds the range of the Eryx missile.

The enhanced Eryx system also introduces NETS (New Eryx Training Simulator), a new generation technical training simulator. Based on a modified firing post and a PC serving to programme ground engagement scenarios, NETS introduces new improved features with encrusted 3D targets in the scenario seen by the firing operator through the aiming optics.

In service since 1993, over 57,000 Eryx missiles have been ordered. The system has been used operationally and, thanks to its eight customer countries, has become recognised as a global benchmark for short-range ground combat. Discreetness while firing, warhead lethality and its alignment guidance method all combine to enable Eryx to be used with equal effectiveness in asymmetric urban combat as well as in open terrain operations against armour or all other mobile targets. These features also serve to make Eryx a formidable weapon against fortifications.

The new, enhanced Eryx development, self-funded by MBDA since 2007, has already obtained its first customer, a customer in the Middle East where the different system elements (firing post, munitions and simulator) will enter service during 2010.

Notes to editors

With industrial facilities in four European countries and within the USA, MBDA has an annual turnover of €2.7 billion and an order book of €11.9 billion. With more than 90 armed forces customers in the world, MBDA is a world leader in missiles and missile systems.

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