

25th November 2011

MBDA to set up industrial capability for the demilitarization of complex munitions

On 3rd November 2011, NAMSA (the NATO Maintenance and Supply Agency) awarded MBDA the contract for the destruction of 36,000 complex munitions.

Under this contract MBDA, calling on its wealth of experience in the missiles and missile systems domain, undertakes to establish within two years and within national territory a facility to process classified munitions in accordance with the very strict regulations that apply to defence safety; namely operational reliability and respect for the environment. In particular, MBDA will be responsible for the disposal before 2017 of more than 1,000 missiles, 22,000 M26 rockets (the rockets formerly deployed in Multi Launch Rocket Systems or MLRSs), each containing 644 sub-munitions, and 13,000 155-mm grenade shells, each containing 63 sub-munitions – hence more than 15 million sub-munitions.

The munition processing plant will be installed at MBDA's Bourges Subdray site in central France. This activity represents an investment of around €12 million and should create about 20 direct jobs.

In order to win the contract and establish a high added value facility in France, MBDA has brought together the best skills available on the market - with ESPLODENTI SABINO and AID in Italy, and NAMMO in Norway.

MBDA's Chief Executive Officer Antoine Bouvier said: *"The demilitarisation of complex weapons has become a new strategic activity for MBDA. This fits in perfectly with our determination to establish close and sustainable partnerships with our domestic and export customers. These customers not only require guaranteed availability and sustained support for their equipment, but also that we ensure the safe end of life disposal of their complex weapons as well".*

Notes to editors

This contract has been established within the framework of the Oslo Convention, which was ratified by France in 2010 and requires all signatory countries to dispose of their cluster munitions before 2018.

The notion of a "cluster munition" is a generic term to designate any weapon comprising a container (a missile, bomb, shell or rocket) used to carry and disperse high quantities of explosive munitions or sub-munitions designed to operate upon impact.

Regarding MBDA

With industrial facilities in four European countries and within the USA, MBDA has an annual turnover of €2.8 billion and an order book of €10.8 billion. 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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