

20th June 2011

**MBDA announces the first submarine launch of SCALP Naval,
France's future cruise missile**

The first submarine launch as part of the SCALP Naval / MdCN (Missile de Croisière Naval) programme was carried out successfully by the French DGA (Direction Générale de l'Armement) at its Ile du Levant missile test centre in the Mediterranean on 8th June 2011.

Using an underwater platform simulating the launch conditions prevailing on the future Barracuda nuclear-powered attack submarine, this firing permitted all the intended test objectives to be demonstrated: the validation of the launch phase with the subsequent change of environment from water to air as well as the missile's flight.

The positive outcome of this trial helps validate the definition of SCALP Naval / MdCN in its submarine configuration as well as validate the missile's commonality concept for the two types of launch platform. It also adds to the success of the first vertical launch achieved in a frigate configuration last year. These two achievements constitute a major step in the SCALP Naval / MdCN development programme by removing the risk associated with the launch phases from the two types of launch platform, namely frigates and submarines.

As a result of this total success, the convergence of the MdCN missile programme with those of the two launch platforms, the entry into service of the FREMM frigate in 2014 and the Barracuda submarine in 2017, has been firmly confirmed.

Following the test launch, Antoine Bouvier, MBDA's CEO, said: "I would especially like to congratulate the MBDA and government teams for the total success of this firing. SCALP Naval is in effect a priority for us all. It goes without saying that the most recent operations have served to remind us of the strategic necessity of a sovereign capability weapon for first strike".

Notes to editors

With industrial facilities in four European countries and within the USA, in 2010 MBDA achieved a turnover of 2.8 billion euros with an order book of 10.8 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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