

28th October 2008

A FURTHER SUCCESSFUL FIRING OF VL MICA IN ITS NAVAL CONFIGURATION

The production series version of the vertical launch container has now been validated

The terminal precision of the missile has been confirmed for the fourteenth time in succession

At approximately 15.30 pm on Thursday, 23rd October 2008, a MICA missile fired from a vertical launcher scored a direct hit against a Banshee drone flying at low level over the sea at a range exceeding 12 km. The firing was carried out by MBDA at the DGA's (Délégation Générale pour l'Armement) CELM (Centre d'Essais de Lancement de Missiles) at Biscarosse (Landes). This, the latest of a series of 14 successful MICA firings from vertical launchers, marks the end of the validation trials of the production series CLA (Conteneur Lanceur Autonome – Autonomous Launcher Container). The CLA enables the vertical launch of the MICA missile and has already been selected by several navies worldwide to equip their corvettes.

Of special note is that the MICA missile was fired in an EM (Electro-Magnetic) configuration, namely equipped with a radar seeker, against a target designation provided by the firing range and that the target was at a range of 15km. The engagement in its entirety was carried out under radar control from target designation by the firing range to final terminal guidance by the seeker. Given the small size of the target, the fact that it was intercepted as a result of direct missile impact and not by the effect of the missile's explosive charge demonstrates the exceptional precision of the missile guidance system.

Notes to Editors

The VL MICA (Vertical Launch) air defence system is available in naval and ground-based variants deploying the MICA missile from the CLA launcher.

MICA currently provides the air-to-air weapon capability on the Mirage 2000-5 and Rafale combat aircraft and is unique in the world in its ability to be equipped with either infra-red or electro-magnetic seekers. This makes the system extremely robust in the face of even the most extreme of countermeasures.

In its naval variant, the compactness of the missile makes VL MICA highly suitable as the principal defence system on corvette-type craft or as a complement to Aster 30 for the air defence of ships of larger tonnage.

When integrated on a corvette-class ship:

- the radar used is the ship's multi-function radar
- C2 (Command and Control) functions are inserted within the ship's combat management system
- the missiles are fired from a CLA container equipped with an efflux evacuation flue that allows combusive gases to be expelled upwards, these vertical launch containers are installed in a silo fitted below the ship's deck
- The data link is independent from the radar and placed in the ship's superstructure

In its ground-based version, VL MICA can be set up either as an autonomous system or as an element of a multi-layered air defence system that also comprises SAMP/T (Sol-Air Moyenne

Portée – Ground to Air Medium Range) Aster and Mistral.

Since December 2005, MBDA has been developing an autonomous land system demonstrator under contract to the DGA. Known as SALVE (Sol-Air à Lancement Vertical – Ground to Air via Vertical Launch), the demonstrator comprises the following elements:

- the MICA missile
- a mobile radar providing target designation
- quadruple-missile launch vehicles
- a C2 vehicle

With an annual turnover of €3 billion, a forward order book of €13 billion and over 70 customers worldwide, MBDA is a world leading, global missile systems company. MBDA currently has 45 missile system and countermeasure programmes in operational service and has proven its ability as prime contractor to head major multi-national projects.

MBDA is jointly owned by BAE SYSTEMS (37.5%), EADS (37.5%) and FINMECCANICA (25%).

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