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**Press Release****24 November 2008****MBDA Incorporated Received Phase II Option Exercised for Affordable Weapon System Research Contract by the US Navy**

**Westlake Village, California.** The US Naval Air Systems Command, through the Program Executive Office, Unmanned Aviation and Strike Weapons issued MBDA Incorporated a \$4,530,231 Option Exercise on 5 November 2008. Under this contract, MBDA Incorporated will define MBDA's best material approach and complete risk reduction tasks for an Affordable Weapon System (AWS). This Phase II Option follows the September 2007 contract award of \$6,572,070 and successful completion of the Phase I AWS contract for the Navy that defined missions and the system architecture.

AWS is envisioned by the US Navy as an affordable ship and potentially air launched missile system for sea-based strike missions at standoff within a net-centric environment.

Teamed with MBDA to work for the US Navy on this contract are BAE Systems Incorporated Electronics & Integrated Solutions, BAE Systems Incorporated Land & Armaments, Whitney, Bradley & Brown Incorporated and Harris Corporation.

MBDA Incorporated based in Westlake Village, California, is the US arm of MBDA and has products including missile systems, wing assemblies, airborne data link pods, and training ranges.

**Notes to editors**

With industrial facilities in four European countries and within the USA, MBDA has an annual turnover of more than €3 billion and an order book of more than €13 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 owned by BAE SYSTEMS (37,5%), EADS (37,5%) and FINMECCANICA (25%).

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