



ASMPA is destined to replace the ASMP (strategic and ultimate deterrent air-launched nuclear missile, for deployment by France's strategic air forces and which can be carried under the Mirage 2000N).

The transition scenario from ASMP to ASMPA was initial entry into service on the K3 standard of the Mirage 2000N and subsequently on the F3 standard Rafale.

Programme Description

End 1997: programme launch

04/08/2000: programme development launch

29/12/2000: development contract awarded to Aerospatiale Matra Missiles (now MBDA France)

2009: Operational on M2000

2010: Operational on Rafale

Industrial Structure

Prime contractor air vehicle (not warhead): MBDA

Nuclear warhead : Commissariat à l'Energie Atomique (CEA)

Technical Description

The concept is similar to that of ASMP. The ASMPA air vehicle uses the air vehicle pre-developed for the Vesta activity (ramjet air vehicle) in conjunction with the ANF future anti-ship programme (ANF was

suspended at the end of 1999). The missile is powered by a ramjet motor. This mode of propulsion, compared to a traditional rocket propulsion system, allows for the significant reduction of both the required space within the missile as well as missile weight in relation to the required range and warhead charge. It allows the missile to cover a large part of the flight envelope at high supersonic speeds.

Warhead

New, medium energy thermo-nuclear charge; a concept validated during the last nuclear testing campaign. Simulations have proven its effective operation.

Performance

The range and penetration capabilities have been significantly enhanced in relation to ASMP. The missile is nuclear-attack hardened.

ASMPA AIR-TO-GROUND MISSILE, MEDIUM RANGE, ENHANCED*

* Information by courtesy of the French DGA



AIR

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Name

- **ASMPA**

