

15th February 2012

MBDA DELIVERS THE 500TH DUAL MODE BRIMSTONE MISSILE

The 500th Dual Mode Brimstone missile has been delivered by MBDA at its UK-based factory at Lostock, England. This unique air to surface missile has won many plaudits from the Royal Air Force for its ability to attack and destroy targets with precision in difficult urban environments with low collateral damage that no other air force was able to achieve during the Libyan conflict.

The British Minister for Defence Equipment, Support & Technology, Peter Luff was present at the production line with the UK Managing Director of MBDA Steve Wadey to thank the MBDA employees for their dedication during the Libyan campaign and for the example they set as the UK's core complex weapons production facility.

Commenting on the performance of the MBDA team and this milestone, Minister Peter Luff said:

"I am glad that I have had the opportunity to come here and thank you all in person for your efforts in supporting the NATO operation during the conflict in Libya last year. Brimstone and Storm Shadow have a deserved reputation for accuracy and reliability and the use of these missiles alongside the RAF's other air to surface weapons, was of real importance to the success of the operation to liberate the country. Throughout this time staff at MBDA provided exemplary support in ensuring that this capability was available for use at all times for which we and the people of Libya are very grateful."

Executive Group Director Technical and MBDA UK Managing Director Steve Wadey said:

"Dual Mode Brimstone has been a real success story in showcasing the innovative capabilities that MBDA delivers to the front-line and we are delighted to be marking the 500th delivery of this weapon. We believe that this milestone highlights the continued success of Brimstone and the Minister's visit is a welcome recognition of the contribution MBDA and its employees make to the Armed Forces and their operations."

The operational demand for the weapon by the RAF was such that MBDA had to 'surge' supply to both Libyan and Afghanistan theatres of operation. MBDA's Lostock production facilities achieved this by making deliveries four months earlier and with 50% greater throughput than was in pre-existing delivery plans. In addition, routine throughput of missiles returned back to the operational theatres saw deliveries three times more than was planned in the same timeframe.

Notes to editors

Dual Mode Brimstone has been used successfully against a variety of different targets in support of Operation ELLAMY and Operation HERRICK, providing precision effects combined with very well in excess of 90 per cent mission success. Key targets have included Main Battle Tanks, Armoured Fighting Vehicles, Pick up Trucks with Rocket Launchers and Coastal Radar Antenna.

Dual Mode Brimstone's capabilities of precision attack with low collateral damage against manoeuvring or static targets thanks to a man-in-the-loop capability are unmatched by other weapons and has generated worldwide interest by other leading militaries. These unmatched features have created interest from various armed forces in applying the Dual Mode Brimstone to other platforms including a wide variety of ship vessels.

Dual Mode Brimstone is in-service on Tornado GR4/4A and is a candidate for integration on the RAF's Eurofighter Typhoon and F-35 JCA aircraft.

There are 50 -75 employees across MBDA's Loughton and Henlow sites working on delivering Dual Mode Brimstone with the ability to flex the workforce to align with demand. There are additional numbers of engineers working on the future developments of the Brimstone weapon at Stevenage.

With industrial facilities in four European countries and within the USA, in 2010 MBDA achieved a turnover of € 2.8 billion with 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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