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### **ASPIDE 2000 BY MBDA WINS FURTHER ACCLAIM IN KUWAIT**

Another Aspide 2000 success in Kuwait reaffirms the missile's status as a major aircraft buster.

Fired from a Skyguard air defence system, the Aspide 2000 missiles brought down two Banshee remotely piloted targets at the Kuwait Air Defence Brigade's ADEIRA range during a live firing air defence exercise carried out on 18th and 19th December 2012. Both targets were destroyed, in one case by a direct hit and in the other by a close-range explosion. Intercept took place at a range of around 6 km and at an altitude of around 1,500 metres. These successful intercepts add to the already solid evidence of the reliability of this MBDA missile.

During the exercise, Aspide 2000 achieved a launch record for Kuwait - all 19 launches since 2007 having been successful despite varying weather conditions, with launches taking place both at night and day, at both medium and long ranges and at both high and low altitude.

The success of this latest Kuwait exercise is further confirmation of Aspide's effectiveness – 5,000 missiles have been produced to date - and of the robustness of the modernised system's design. This is yet another boost to the export potential of a missile that international markets are increasingly considering as one of the best performing in the medium-range ground-to-air missile sector.

#### **Note to editors**

##### Aspide 2000

A missile with RF seeker and over 25 km interception capability. The fire control centre and missile launcher(s) together form the firing section. Up to 4 firing sections can usually be integrated, depending on the client's operating requirements. Architectural flexibility is provided by omnidirectional radio links between the detection centre and the firing section.

With industrial facilities in five European countries and within the USA, in 2011 MBDA achieved a turnover of 3 billion euros with an order book of 10.5 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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