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## MBDA and Rheinmetall win contract for high-energy laser system

**Schrobenhausen / Düsseldorf** – Germany's Federal Office for Bundeswehr Equipment, Information Technology and In-Service Support (BAAINBw) has awarded a consortium, or ARGE, consisting of MBDA Deutschland GmbH and Rheinmetall Waffe Munition GmbH a contract to fabricate, integrate and support testing of a laser weapon demonstrator in the maritime environment. The order value is in the low double-digit million euro range.

Work will be shared out on a roughly equal basis. MBDA Deutschland is responsible for tracking, the operator's console and linking the laser weapon demonstrator to the command-and-control system. Rheinmetall is in charge of the laser weapon station, the beam guiding system, cooling, and integration of the laser weapon system into the project container of the laser *source* demonstrator.

The demonstrator is to be fabricated, tested and integrated by the end of the 2021. Trials onboard the German Navy frigate F124 *Sachsen* are to take place in 2022.

As Doris Laarmann, head of laser business development at MBDA Deutschland, notes, "The contract is an important step on the path to an operational high-energy laser system. Our two companies will apply their respective strengths to make this project a success on behalf of the German Navy. Once it's installed, the demonstrator will also be used to test important aspects such as the interaction and function of the sensor suite, combat management system and effector as well as rules of engagement."

Alexander Graf, head of Rheinmetall Waffe Munition's laser weapons programme, and Dr Markus Jung, who leads the company's laser weapon development effort, both agree, adding that "The contract marks a systematic extension of the functional prototype laser weapon successfully tested in recent years, with the experience gained now dovetailing into one of the most ambitious projects in the field of laser weapon development in Europe."

A breakthrough development in the history of defence technology, lasers engage targets at the speed of light, operating with great precision and producing very little collateral damage. A

demonstrator system featuring these capabilities will soon be put to the test under highly realistic operating conditions onboard a German frigate.

**Notes to editors:**

MBDA is the only European Defence 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).

With a significant presence in five European countries and within the USA, in 2019 MBDA achieved revenue of 3.7 billion euros with an order book of 17.5 billion euros. 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 Airbus (37.5%), BAE Systems (37.5%), and Leonardo (25%).

**Press contacts:**

**Günter Abel**

Tel: +49 (0) 8252 99 3827

Mobile: +49 (0) 160 3693037

[guenter.abel@mbda-systems.de](mailto:guenter.abel@mbda-systems.de)

**Jean Dupont**

Tel: +33 (0) 171 541 173

Mobile: +33 (0) 633 376 466

[jean.dupont@mbda-systems.com](mailto:jean.dupont@mbda-systems.com)