



26 November 2020

MBDA completes qualification firing trials of the Sea Venom/ANL missile

The Sea Venom/ANL anti-ship missile has completed its qualification firings trials, with a successful final firing at the DGA test site at Ile Du Levant on 17 November.

Soon to start equipping the Royal Navy's AW159 Wildcat and Marine Nationale's H160M Guepard shipborne helicopters, the Sea Venom/ANL anti-ship missile is a co-operation project developed under the Lancaster House treaty between France and the United Kingdom. The Sea Venom/ANL missile is the first programme to take full advantage of the cross-border centres of excellence on missile technologies launched by the Lancaster House treaty, which celebrated its 10-year anniversary this month.

The final qualification trial tested the missile's advanced target discrimination within a complex and cluttered naval scenario.

Éric Béranger, MBDA CEO, said: "I want to congratulate the UK-French teams across both MBDA and our governments for the commitment they have shown in meeting this qualification milestone amid the disruption caused by Covid-19. Together they have proven that through co-operation we can jointly overcome adversity and deliver leading edge military capabilities."

Previous trials have tested the missiles launch envelope, release envelope and engagement modes, such as its low-altitude sea-skimming flight, lock on after launch (LOAL), lock on before launch (LOBL), operator-in-the-loop, and aimpoint refinement.

Notes to editors:

The Centres of Excellence (CofEx) within MBDA are unique initiative in Europe and secure both nations' long-term access to technologies that are critical for both nation's sovereignty and the freedom of action of their armed forces. The French and British parliaments ratified an intergovernmental agreement (IGA) in 2016 to launch the CofEx.

The CofEx have created efficiencies and resilience in the UK/France Complex Weapons (CW) sector, one of the aims of the Lancaster House Treaty of November 2010. By sharing technological capabilities and capacity between MBDA-UK and MBDA-France the CofEx have delivered on their objectives of driving greater industrial efficiency and cost savings for both nations.

MBDA is the only European 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%).

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