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MBDA to arm Hellenic Air Force's new Rafale fighter jets

Lieutenant General Theodoros Lagios, General Director for Defence Investments and Armaments of the Greek Ministry of Defence and Eric Béranger, CEO of MBDA, today signed a contract to provide the armaments for 18 Rafale combat aircraft intended for Greece's air force.

A signing ceremony was held in Athens in the presence of the French Minister for Armed Forces, Florence Parly, and the Greek Minister for Defense, Nikolaos Panagiotopoulos.

The new aircraft's weapons will benefit from the strong commonality with those from the Mirage 2000s and Mirage 2000-5s currently in service in the Hellenic Air Force. Like these, the Rafales will be armed with SCALP cruise missiles, AM39 Exocet anti-ship missiles and MICA multi-mission air-to-air missiles. Additionally, MBDA will also supply Meteor beyond visual range air-to-air missiles.

Eric Béranger, CEO of MBDA, said: "The signing of this agreement turns a new page in our relationship with Greece, which we have had for more than half a century. The country was the very first customer of the Exocet missile in 1968, showing great confidence in it and in our predecessor companies. This confidence has been renewed over the years and is being renewed again today. It is our duty to do everything we can in order to continue delivering on this confidence into tomorrow."

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%).

MBDA is a long-standing partner of the Hellenic Armed Forces. On December 30th 1968, the Hellenic Navy became the first customer of the Exocet MM38 missile by signing a contract to arm the Laskos class (or French Combattante class) fast attack ships. They were also the Navy who carried out the first operational Exocet missile firing in 1972, from the ship 'Kimothoi'. The Hellenic Navy has since remained loyal to the Exocet missile by supplementing its inventory with the more recent MM40 Block 2 and 3 versions.

The Hellenic Air Force has been using Mirage 2000 fighter planes since 1989, then Mirage 2000-5 Mk2 fighter planes, armed with Super 530D, MAGIC 2 and MICA air-to-air missiles, as well as EXOCET AM39 anti-ship missiles and SCALP cruise missiles all from MBDA.

Finally, the Hellenic Army is equipped with MBDA's Milan medium range anti-tank missiles.

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