

## IDEX Release

# **SIGN4L Signs Memorandum of Understanding with European Defence Entities MBDA, CILAS to Explore Cooperation in High-energy Laser Weapons Systems**

**Abu Dhabi-UAE: 23 February, 2021** – SIGN4L, a regional leader in the provision of agile, adaptive and reliable electronic warfare and intelligence (EW&I) solutions, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with MBDA, a world leader in missile systems offering a comprehensive international product range incorporating today's most advanced innovations, and CILAS, the French subsidiary of Ariane Group, specialising in laser and optics technology. The three companies are to explore co-development in the field of high-energy laser weapons systems as part of an advanced counter-unmanned aerial vehicle (C-UAV) strategy.

The MoU was signed by His Excellency Faisal Al Bannai, CEO and Managing Director of EDGE, on behalf of SIGN4L, Eric Béranger, CEO of MBDA, and a representative of CILAS, in the presence of key representatives of the three entities at the ongoing International Defence Exhibition and Conference (IDEX 2021), underway at the Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre (ADNEC) from 21 February to 25 February.

Under the terms of the MoU, each of the partners is tasked with identifying a potential axis of cooperation in several domains and activities related to high energy lasers, such as operational analysis and systems architecture, while also factoring in potential vulnerability and performance demonstration. The agreement follows up on the bilateral cooperation agreement signed between French Authorities and Tawazun during the Dubai Air Show 2019.

Speaking on the agreement, His Excellency Faisal Al Bannai said: "It is a proud moment for us at SIGN4L and EDGE to bring critical competencies in directed energy to the country and the region as part of our wider strategy on counter-UAV solutions. We are confident our synergies with CILAS and MBDA will further advance the UAE's defence preparedness, and enable the country to build a secure technological future."

Eric Béranger, CEO of MBDA, said: "For the first time, MBDA is engaging in an ambitious cooperation outside Western Europe regarding high-energy laser. Collaboration in this field is of a mutual interest since MBDA and CILAS's capabilities and experience working on high-energy laser activities for more than 30 years is complementary to SIGN4L's strong knowledge and expertise regarding them."



## Notes to editors:

### **About SIGN4L**

SIGN4L is the leading provider of electronic warfare and intelligence (EW&I) solutions in the UAE, enabling end users to gain the necessary tactical advantage and achieve exceptional situational awareness and EW spectrum superiority across military and intelligence operations. Leveraging the most advanced technologies and solutions in the market, SIGN4L develops, acquires and supplies lifecycle support for defence and security forces in three main focal areas,

including integrated electronic warfare; aircraft electronic survival systems; and intelligence, surveillance, target acquisition and reconnaissance (ISTAR) sensors that maintain battle-space awareness.

For more information, visit [sign4l.ae](http://sign4l.ae)

### **About EDGE**

EDGE is an advanced technology group that develops disruptive solutions for defence and beyond. Solving real-world challenges, it is dedicated to bringing innovative technologies and services to market with greater speed and efficiency. Consolidating 25 entities and employing more than 12,000 brilliant minds, EDGE offers expertise in five core clusters: Platforms & Systems, Missiles & Weapons, Cyber Defence, Electronic Warfare & Intelligence and Mission Support. Today, EDGE is reimagining capabilities through technology leadership with research and development at its core.

For more information, please visit [www.edgegroup.ae](http://www.edgegroup.ae)

### **About CILAS**

CILAS has developed a recognized expertise in lasers and optronics. Today, CILAS keeps on developing cutting-edge technologies and constantly brings innovations to its products and systems. Its main markets are: Defense & security, Laser programs, Scientific and space instrumentations. With half of its turnover being generated by direct exports, CILAS is settling its international presence. While developing the latest technologies for future products designed, we meet the emerging needs.

### **About MBDA**

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%).

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