



1. The booster's steerable nozzles allow the shaping of Aster's trajectory in order to intercept the incoming missile, at high altitude in the case of a ballistic missile or at very low altitude to intercept a cruise missile.

2. A few seconds after launch, the booster burns out. The terminal vehicle, with its smaller caliber and thus lower drag, separates naturally from the booster before its rocket motor ignites, maintaining it at a cruise speed of around Mach 4.5.

3. Via in-flight data link, Aster receives constantly updated target trajectory information which the C2 module has computed from data provided by the radar. Its aerodynamic control surfaces make constant trajectory corrections to keep the missile on an intercept course with the target.

4. Aster switches on its seeker. After locking onto the target, it will be guided by the information provided by its seeker.

5. When close to the target, aerodynamic control surfaces combine with hot gas jets applied to the terminal vehicle's centre of gravity to instantaneously place Aster on an intercept trajectory. At the last moment, the explosive charge is activated to assure the complete destruction of the target.