



MINISTÈRE DES ARMÉES

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PRESS RELEASE MINISTRY FOR ARMED FORCES

Paris, March 14th, 2025

Additional Aster missiles: France, Italy, United Kingdom to deepen air defence missile stock

Aster partner Nations: France, Italy and United Kingdom, confirm the order of 218 additional Aster missiles and the acceleration of delivery of already ordered Aster missiles, under a trinational procurement.

The Organisation for Joint Armament Cooperation (OCCAr) signed the contract on behalf of the Direction générale de l'armement (DGA) for France, Segretariato Generale della Difesa for Italy, and Defence Equipment & Support for United Kingdom, for the benefit of six forces: French Navy, French Air and Space Force, Italian Army, Italian Navy, Italian Air Force and Royal Navy.

This contract negotiated by OCCAR reached to a conclusion thanks to a strong involvement to accelerate production of EUROSAM and MBDA, as European missile industrial reference, and great cooperation of Nations. With this new contract, OCCAR reinforces the European missile industry supported by MBDA and by major European actors like Thales, Avio, KNDS Ammo.

This contract concerns the production of new Aster 30 B1 (for SAMP/T NG for France and Italy and naval defence systems of the three Nations) and Aster 15 (for French Navy).

This contract expedites the production of Aster missiles ordered in December 2022, increasing by 134 missiles between 2025 and 2026. This acceleration, initiated in 2024, is the results of adaptations made by MBDA and its subcontractors in order to meet the challenges of a wartime economy.

It underscores the unwavering commitment of France, Italy and United Kingdom to bolster their air defence capabilities.

Aster 30 and Aster 15 missiles are two-stage missiles with a common terminal vector and accelerators. The Aster 30 missile can engage both conventional and rudimentary ballistic targets. The Aster 15 missile is designed to counter saturating attacks by maneuvering missiles, fighter aircrafts and slow-moving aircrafts such as maritime patrol or airborne early warning aircrafts. The Aster 30 B1 NT (Block 1 New Technology) operation, launched at the end of 2015, aims to perpetuate the Aster munitions family and to provide it with enhanced performance to respond to the evolution of conventional and ballistic air threats.

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