



Ministry
of Defence



MINISTÈRE
DES ARMÉES

Equipment Cooperation

United Kingdom and France





The Lancaster House Treaty is the bedrock of our relationship. Since 2010 we have improved our collective capabilities and seen unprecedented levels of integration between our armed forces, intelligence agencies and diplomatic and development authorities.

The UK and France cooperate actively on armament development, acquisition and support, contributing to more capable and effective forces and improving collective defence capability. Since the Summit, at Sandhurst in January 2018, both our ministries of Defence have been working increasingly closely together to extend and deepen our equipment and capabilities cooperation.

- In the armament area significant progress has been made, including:
 - an Inter-Governmental Agreement on complex weapons under the One Complex Weapons programme. This agreement enables MBDA to establish centres of excellence in France and the UK, translates the concept of mutual dependency into industrial reality and delivers efficiencies,
 - progress in the concept phase for the Future Cruise/Anti-Ship Weapon,
 - the success of the first test firings of the Sea Venom/ANL anti-ship missile project,
 - the development of world leading maritime autonomous technology through our joint Maritime Mine Counter Measures project,
 - completion of the feasibility work on the Future Combat Air System project, which is now being utilised as a FCAS technology development co-operation.

- The First Defence Ministerial Council took place in May, the second is taking place in the margins of the Franco British Council. It will continue to meet regularly to provide strategic oversight and direction of the bilateral defence relationship.

Complex Weapons

The Future Cruise / Anti-Ship Weapon programme is looking at options to meet UK and French requirements for anti-ship and deep strike cruise weapons for entry into service around the turn of the next decade. It is almost halfway through its joint Concept Phase and progressing to plan. The programme is intended to replace the SCALP, Storm Shadow, Harpoon and Exocet weapon systems.



Sea Venom missile successfully completes second development firing test

Both nations are working cooperatively on the development and manufacture phase of the next generation of helicopter-launched anti-ship missiles. The Sea Venom/ANL missile is designed to enable the helicopters of both countries' navies to deal with a range of threats including fast moving patrol boats, corvettes and coastal targets.

During Spring 2018 the missile successfully completed its second development firing from a French test helicopter at DGA's Ile Du Levant test centre in southeast France. Following the trial the UK's Minister for Defence Procurement said: "The test firing partnership between France and the United Kingdom is another fantastic display of the two nations working together to protect global waters."



The Franco-British Scalp/Storm Shadow is one of the great successes of our equipment cooperation. This long-range strike missile gives our Armed forces and our allies' a significant operational advantage. It represents both an industrial and export success our countries bringing prosperity, freedom of action and industrial sovereignty.

We are currently working jointly on upgrading the French SCALP-EG and UK Storm Shadow. The innovative joint UK-French contract to refurbish UK and French Storm Shadow/Scalp missiles continues to make good progress. The first refurbished UK missiles will be returned to the RAF around the end of the year.



MBDA

MBDA, a world leader in missiles and missile systems, is a multi-national group with over 10,000 employees in France, the United Kingdom, Italy, Germany, Spain and offices set up in the United States.

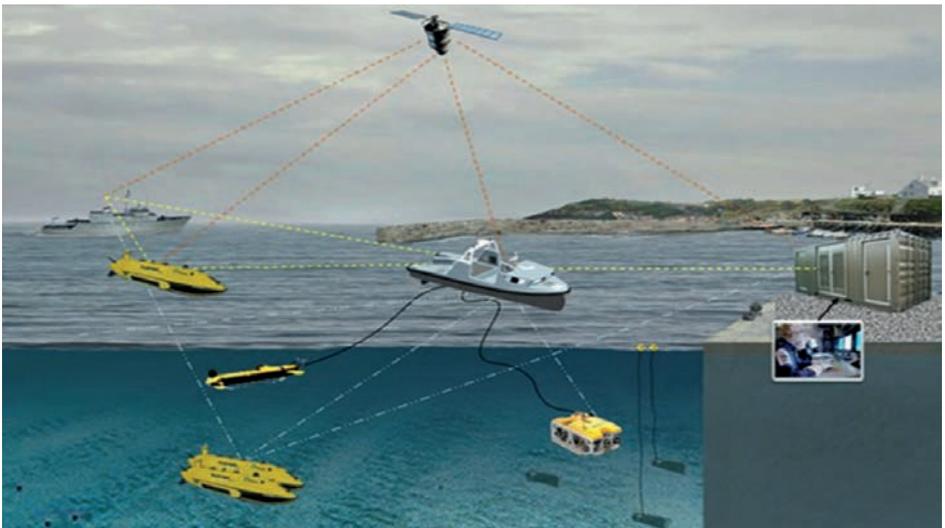
The company is the only pan-domain 'missile systems house' in the UK or in France with capabilities in research, design, manufacture and in-service support. MBDA's missiles, and significantly those designed with a strong Franco-British core such as SCALP/Storm Shadow or Meteor, offer state of the art capabilities to our Armed forces. This will continue for ANL/Sea Venom and Future Cruise / Anti-Ship Weapon which MBDA is delivering.

MBDA's ground breaking Centres of Excellence have delivered efficiencies by optimising industrial capability across our two countries. For example, MBDA's facility in the north of England has supplied actuator components to France for incorporation into its new Battlefield weapons. Likewise, MBDA's facilities in France provide weapon controller components for missiles such as ASRAAM.



Maritime Systems

MMCM. Both countries are working together to develop the next generation of maritime mine countermeasure capabilities. Cutting edge technologies will allow for autonomous systems that will reduce the risk to human life. The design stage of the programme has been successfully completed. The demonstration/prototype phase is currently undertaken and the UK and France are planning to provide staff to work jointly to prepare for a potential production phase.



Air Systems

The UK and France have a strong track record of working together on Combat Air concepts and technologies over many years. Our FCAS Capability Analysis discussions have continued to inform understanding of what the future combat air environment may look like and our associated interoperability needs. The UK-FR FCAS Technology Development Cooperation programme is focused on technology development between the two countries.

A400M Atlas Aircraft

A400M is a collaborative programme to develop and manufacture a next generation military transport aircraft, managed on behalf of partner nations by the international procurement agency OCCAr. 20 aircraft have been delivered so far to the RAF, and 14 to the French Air Force. UK and France utilise a Global Support Contract (managed by OCCAr) to draw on a spares-pool service and common support services, bringing tangible cost benefits and economies of scale to both nations.



Defence Ministerial Council

In May Defence Secretary Gavin Williamson and French Minister of the Armed Forces Mme Florence Parly held the first Defence Ministerial Council. During the meeting a bespoke technical arrangement which will oversee the exchange of test pilots between the two nations was signed.



Test Pilot Exchange

The agreement formalised an exchange enabling French pilots to train at the UK Empire Test Pilots' School based at MOD Boscombe Down, and British pilots to train at the French DGA's Test Pilots' School, Ecole du Personnel Navigant d'Essais et de Réception based at the Istres-Le Tubé Airbase. This reciprocal exchange of personnel ensures that the skills of military flight test, analysis and capability enhancement are shared between the Armed Forces of UK and France.





