



## EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW: Group Captain Dr. Nattapol Niyomthai Director Aero Technology Industry Limited

Thailand based Aero Technology Industry Limited (ATIL) is showcasing unmanned aerial systems (UAS) at the ongoing show, in what is the most ambitious such programme in Thailand. Together with its Chinese partners, ATIL has worked closely with Thailand's Defence R&D agency, the Defence Technology Institute (DTI) and the Royal Thai Army (RTA) to conceive three different drone systems to meet the future needs of the Thai armed forces. In an exclusive interaction with Daily News on the sidelines of the show, Group Captain (Dr. Nattapol Niyomthai, Director Aero Technology Industry Limited (ATIL) provided insights into the Thai drone programme.

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## BARZAN HOLDINGS OFFERING CUSTOMISED DEFENCE SOLUTIONS



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## ATIL LOOKING TO DEVELOP COMPREHENSIVE UAV PORTFOLIO FOR THAI NEEDS

### EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW:

Group Captain

Dr. Nattapol Niyomthai, Director  
Aero Technology Industry Limited

Thailand based Aero Technology Industry Limited (ATIL) is showcasing three different unmanned aerial systems at the ongoing Defence & Security exhibition. The DP16, DP20 and DP20-A are essentially of Chinese origin but are being configured to meet Thai needs. Speaking to Atul Chandra on the sidelines of the show, Group Captain Dr. Nattapol Niyomthai, Director ATIL, said work on the DP20 had been underway since 2019 and the Royal Thai Army (RTA) would commence its operational evaluation of the type, following which feedback would be provided to ATIL to incorporate changes or improvements. This process would take 1-2 years he said.

**Thailand's Defence R&D agency, the Defence Technology Institute (DTI) has 50 people working on UAS programmes and some of these employees have been moved to ATIL. ATIL is planning to increase increasing its strength to 100 employees in the future.**

The DP20 medium altitude long endurance unmanned aerial system (UAS) has a wingspan of 13.4m and a maximum take-off weight of 750 kg. It can carry a mission payload of 150kg along with 200kg of fuel. It can attain a maximum speed of 135 knots

and a cruising speed of 100 knots. Endurance is claimed as 20 hours and its practical operating ceiling is quoted as 24,500 feet.

The DP20-A is a larger armed drone and work is now underway on the programme in Thailand. Deliveries to the RTA could potentially begin as early as 2026. The DP20-A can undertake intelligence surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR), border patrol or fire calibration, battlefield assessment targeting

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# BARZAN HOLDINGS OFFERING CUSTOMISED DEFENCE SOLUTIONS

Barzan Holdings which is owned by the State of Qatar is provided a strong indication of its intent to grow into a major player in the SE Asian defence market. Keen on showcasing its capabilities to SE Asian nations, Barzan Holdings group companies demonstrated counter drone solutions, a growing unmanned aerial systems portfolio, small arms systems and ammunition and an innovative military grade portable ventilator, which has now been exported to 16 countries. The Qatari state-owned firm, is making its maiden participation at the Defence & Security exhibition.

**"Today, we are here in Thailand to showcase our products that were developed in the State of Qatar and explore their prospects for Asian markets. We believe there's a lot of synergies between the State of Qatar and the Asian countries. And we believe that our products and Qatar's concerns are very much aligned with the concerns of the nation's here in Asia," Abdullah Hassan Al-Khater, Vice President & Chief Strategic Procurement Officer at Barzan Holdings told Daily News.**



Rheinmetall Barzan Advanced Technologies (RBAT) is showcasing its advanced counter drone solution which integrates civilian and military anti-drone technologies. RBAT aims to emerge as a one stop solution for nation's that want to build a credible anti-drone technology while integrating various systems, sensors and equipment. RBAT has also invested in developing sophisticated software that aids in integration of various sensors and equipment needed for an effective anti-drone solution.

"We have invested in the development of a sophisticated open architecture software platform, into which a variety of sensors can be integrated and we consider it to be a very unique system. In fact, we believe that there is nothing like this in the market today," a Barzan Holdings official told Daily News. This system was actually developed to meet the very specific requirements in the State of Qatar, the official added.

Bindig, a joint venture between Barzan Holdings and Beretta Holding was founded in 2018. Bindig has acquired the intellectual property rights for Beretta's existing designs and the weapons being displayed at the show were manufactured in Qatar. Bindig is now looking beyond these Beretta designs and looking to develop its own designs to meet the specific needs of Qatar's military and those of potential export customers around the world.

Barzan Industrial Group (BIG) is a subsidiary of Barzan Holdings, which was established an engineering and manufacturing company, has been established with the main purpose of providing high quality defense and security products, as well as health and civil products. BIG has partnered with American firm Wilcox to manufacture spare parts and accessories for small arms systems. One of the weapons displayed at the show is a modified version of the M-16 and it has also developed an under-barrel grenade launcher. The KMA 762 is an advanced lightweight modular rifle chambered in 7.62mm X 5 mm NATO, while the KMA 556 direct impingement lightweight modular rifle is also manufactured in Qatar by BIG. The company is also designing accessories for combat helmets.



# Daily News

# INDO DEFENCE 2022 EXPO AND FORUM

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GBP Aerospace & Defence will be the 'Official and Exclusive Show Daily' at the Indo Defence 2022 Expo and Forum that will take place from 2-5 November 2022 at JIEXPO Kemayoran, Jakarta - Indonesia.

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- 2,000 printed copies of DAILY NEWS will be distributed onsite to conference attendees, visitors and exhibitor stalls.
- DAILY NEWS is popular at defence shows and trade exhibitions worldwide, due to its handy size and quality editorial content.
- E-edition of DAILY NEWS will be emailed each morning of the exhibition for unprecedented local and international exposure.
- More than 3,000 digital copies will be sent on email to military, defence and industry professionals worldwide, with a special focus on the Middle-East and Asia.

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# TEXTRON AVIATION DEFENCE TO BOOST THAI DEFENCE CAPABILITY

**INTERVIEW:**

Thomas Webster, Director of Textron Aviation Defence Asia Pacific Sales & Strategy

## Please elaborate on Textron Aviation Defence's presence in Thailand?

TA Defence is pleased to have the opportunity to help expand Thailand's growing aviation industry and is teamed with Thailand Aerospace Industries (TAI) and RV Connex, Co. for manufacturing work and assembly on the Royal Thai Air Force (RTAF) Beechcraft T-6TH and Beechcraft AT-6TH. As the RTAF inducts these aircraft into the national inventory over the next two years, TA Defence anticipates the continued growth and expansion of relationships and a growing presence in Thailand.

## What is the status of the RTAF's 2021 order for eight Beechcraft AT-6 Wolverine aircraft?

The first of the RTAF's AT-6TH is starting down the production line with first in-country deliveries beginning in late 2023. The RTAF will have use of a Textron Aviation Defence Beechcraft AT-6 Wolverine for three years, which will be arriving in-country in late 2022. This aircraft will serve as an Engineering, Manufacturing and Development testbed for integration of the RTAF's datalink and other sovereign programs as part of the nation's Purchase and Develop initiative.



**The first of the RTAF's twelve T-6TH will be arriving in Thailand later this year. The deliveries are expected to be completed by the middle of 2023.**

## Please elaborate on Textron Aviation Defence's presence in SE Asia?

Textron Aviation Defence and Special Missions have a broad base of customers throughout Asia with aircraft covering the gamut of missions from training, national defense, maritime patrol, humanitarian assistance, aeromedical airlift, weather

modification, VIP transport, light utility lift, air traffic control calibration and others. This broad portfolio makes Textron Aviation Defence and Special Missions a reliable mission partner for national and corporate needs throughout the Asia Pacific region.

## What are some of the global developments at Textron Aviation Defence that will be of interest in the region?

The continued growth of the Textron Aviation Defense fleet is highlighted by the recent type certifications for the Beechcraft AT-6 Wolverine and the Cessna SkyCourier, the first flight and rapid progress of the Beechcraft Denali and the creation of a new e-Aviation business within Textron Inc. expands the company's visionary heritage and role as an industry leader across all aspects of aviation. We inspire the journey of flight in Asia Pacific and all around the world. For more than 90 years, Textron Aviation has empowered its collective talent across the Beechcraft, Cessna and Hawker brands to design and deliver the best aviation experience for our customers. We have the most versatile and comprehensive aviation product portfolio in the world and a workforce that has produced more than half of all general aviation aircraft worldwide. These aircraft deliver value and world class performance to customers throughout the Asia Pacific region and open up new capabilities to meet a wide array of national and corporate needs.



## ROYAL THAI NAVY TO INDUCT TERMA SCANTER 5202 AND 2202 RADARS

The Royal Navy (RTN) will soon strengthen its coastal surveillance capabilities with new radar systems currently being delivered by Terma. The current deliveries consist of several radars systems for sites along the coastline, which will include Terma's Scanter 5202 and 2202 and will be combined with a variety of antennas (21 feet, 18 feet and 12 feet compact antennas). All radars will feature Terma's ET2 embedded tracker. The RTN is responsible for coast guard operations in Thailand and its efforts at detecting and tracking of illegal activities in their territorial waters will

be greatly enhanced with the induction of the new radar systems. With the new radar systems, the Royal Thai Navy will acquire an intelligent tracking unit installed on all radars. The so-called ET2 embedded tracker automatically logs the behaviour of any suspicious vessel, no matter the size or shape. "It has become a Terma signature to design and produce systems with an open architecture, so customers can freely choose to add the capabilities they need into the system that best suits



their needs and what they prefer. We are system agnostics, so to say," said Anupam Narain Mathur, Vice President and General Manager of Terma Asia Pacific.

Embedded tracking allows for greater situational awareness which comes from having a clear picture of what is going on currently, what has happened previously and predicting what will happen in the (near) future. While the defense and surveillance industry typically have a propriety interface where the tracking capability is part of the Command-and-Control (C2) system, with the Terma radars this is not the case. The Terma ET2 Tracking unit is embedded directly into the radars with simple hardware and software add-ons. The reason behind embedding the ET2 into the radar comes down to making the system compatible with third-party C2 System Providers. The tracking data is translated to exportable international protocols and can be interfaced by any major C2-system on the market.



## KADET DEFENCE SYSTEMS DELIVERS AERIAL TARGET SYSTEMS TO PHILIPPINES

Indian drone manufacturer Kadet Defence Systems, has completed deliveries of its JX2 Aerial Target System to the Philippines. The company claims that it is the first Indian company to export a complete defence system from India to the Philippines. The JX2 Aerial Target

System will be used for training and weapon evaluation of surface to air missiles by the Philippine armed forces. "We completed the delivery in a record time of less than eight weeks from the placement of contract to the delivery of the system which included air vehicles, catapult launcher and other ground support equipment. We also had to develop a new thermal payload to enable the aerial target to simulate aerial threats for heat seeking missiles" said Avdhesh Khaitan, CEO of Kadet DS, while speaking to Daily News on the sidelines of the ongoing Defence & Security show. Khaitan is looking to expand his foot print in the SE Asian and MENA region

with the company's family of aerial targets which includes high speed jet powered sea skimming variants and loitering munition platforms.

The JX2 Aerial Target System is made of composite material and powered by a two-stroke engine. It has a wingspan of 2.5m and length of 2.6m. Line of sight (LOS) range is quoted by the manufacturer as over 40km and the aerial target has an endurance of 45 minutes. It can achieve a speed of more than 60m/s in clean configuration. The catapult launched aerial target has a maximum take-off weight of 35kg and can carry role equipment such as a scoring system, IR flares, Luneberg lens and ISR camera.

## PARAMOUNT GROUP, JATUNAPAS AND DTI TO PARTNER FOR LOCAL PRODUCTION OF ICVs IN THAILAND



Thai efforts to manufacture advanced infantry combat vehicle's (ICV), in-country have received a boost, with the announcement of a new tri-partite partnership with South Africa's Paramount Group, Jatunapas of Thailand and the Defence Technology Institute (DTI), which is Thailand's defence research and development (R&D). The firms will work together to produce Paramount Group's advanced Infantry Combat Vehicle (ICV), the Mbombe 4, in Thailand. Following assembly of the Mbombe 4

within Thailand, the next generation ICV is to undergo vehicle trials by the Thai Armed Forces and the country's Defence Technology Institute (DTI), an agency operating under the oversight of the Thai Ministry of Defense. This was also the first instance of a Mbombe 4 being assembled in SE Asia. The first locally assembled ICV named 'D-Lion' which is the local name for the Mbombe 4 was handed over at the show. Ploynapas Chaiyasree, CEO of Jatunapas Company Limited said: "The D-Lion combat vehicle which has been assembled in Thailand through the cooperation of DTI, Jatunapas and Paramount Group represents a first-of-its-kind in this level of combat capability. South Africa is globally recognized for its leading competence in this vehicle class, whilst Thailand has significant competence in vehicle production.

The Mbombe 4's continued expansion into the Asia-Pacific marketplace and beyond emphasises the success of the

Paramount Group-pioneered portable manufacturing model. Eric Ichikowitz, Senior Vice President of Paramount Group said "We are privileged to partner with DTI and Jatunapas to bolster local manufacturing capabilities through the production of the formidable Mbombe 4. We are looking forward to building this partnership and that with the Thai government, from this milestone."

There are more than 150 Mbombe 4's either being manufactured or on order for delivery or deployment across Africa, Asia and around the world. "This announcement in Thailand is an important next step in the Mbombe's continued expansion, and a testament to the innovative partnerships that we have fostered to the benefit of our partner nations' respective defence industrial complexes. We are pleased to say that the Mbombe 4 is ready for production in Thailand as of today," Ichikowitz said.

## NEXTER EYEING UPGRADE OPPORTUNITIES THAILAND

Nexter is looking to further solidify its presence in Thailand and is showcasing a wide range of products at the ongoing show. At the ongoing show, the company is displaying its CAESAR 6X6 and 105LG artillery systems as well as the Findart fire control system; in addition to the TITUS ARX 20, a 6X6 highly mobile armoured vehicle to operate in difficult terrain conditions. The version presented of this modular vehicle is the armoured personal carrier equipped with an ARX 20mm remote weapon station Nexter is also showcasing its Narwhal 20mm naval remote weapon system and the ammunition range of Nexter Arrowtech for medium and heavy calibre.

Nexter Arrowtech offers a wide range of ammunition for the Royal Thai Army compatible with NATO standard medium and heavy calibre

weapons: 105 and 155mm shells and fuzes for artillery; 76 to 105mm for tank ammunition; common medium calibre (20, 25 and 30mm), Bofors 40mm, 76 and 127mm for naval artillery. "All the equipment we showcase have been designed to meet the needs of the Thai armed forces. For example, Nexter's artillery systems are particularly adapted to challenging environment such as jungle or mountains. They are the lightest guns and to have the smallest logistical footprint," a company spokesperson informed Daily News.

Besides the artillery systems to be delivered to the Royal Thai Army, "Nexter aims at modernising the in-service equipment in order to remain well ahead in terms of performance and reliability. Upgrade opportunities exist in all areas of operations (engineering for production lines, digitization of artillery systems, smart ammunition for enhanced performances of weapons systems...)," the spokesperson said.

The French firm has supplied systems to the Royal Thai Army, the Royal Thai Navy, the Royal Thai Air Force, the Royal Thai Police and the

country's Weapon Production Centre for more than 30 years. Nexter supplied weapon systems that are used in Thailand include the 155mm/52 cal. CAESAR mounted artillery guns, the 105mm LG1 towed guns, 20mm guns and NERVA land tactical robots for the anti-explosive ordnance detection (EOD) Units. Thailand's Weapons Production Centre also has production lines for medium and large caliber ammunition which are in service with the Thai military and Nexter Arrowtech sells ammunition from 20mm to 155mm to the Thai forces.





# MALAYSIAN AND THAI COMPANIES INK MOU FOR MALAYSIAN IFV UPGRADES

Malaysian requirements for its Mechanised Infantry Fighting Vehicle (MIFV) life extension programme, are attracting the attention of Thai companies, seeking partnerships with their Malaysian counterparts. Malaysia's MRA Global Sdn Bhd (MRA) inked a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Thai Defence Industry Co Ltd (TDI) on the inaugural day of the show, in which both firms agreed to explore their prospects for Malaysia's (MIFV) life extension programme. TDI is a joint venture between

Thailand's Defence R&D agency, the Defence Technology Institute (DTI) and Thai land systems specialist, Chaiseri Metal & Rubber Co Ltd (Chaiseri). TDI is offering its knowledge in the field of armoured vehicle design and the collaboration could also result in Chaiseri looking to establish a production line in Malaysia. The Malaysian Army operates American M113-based tracked armored vehicles, the Korean Hanwha K200 infantry fighting vehicle (IFV) and Turkish-made FNSS ACV-15 IFVs.



The Royal Thai Army's (RTA) Automatic Truck Mounted Gun (ATMG) is being showcased in the indoor display. The weapon system is based on Israeli firm Elbit Systems' ATMOS 155mm/52 caliber howitzers which are mounted on a Czechoslovakian Tatra 6X6 chassis for Thailand. The SPH can engage targets ranges exceeding 40km with Explosive Extended-Range Full-Bore projectiles with Base Burn Unit (ERFB-BB) ammunition and suitable propelling charge.



## THAILAND READIES UPGRADED NARAC 556 ASSAULT RIFLE

Thailand's Ministry of Defence is proceeding with the NARAC 556 assault rifle, which is an indigenous upgrade for assault rifles in use with the Thai armed forces. Speaking to Daily News, an official involved in the upgrade said that trials of the prototype rifles had been completed and the NARAC 556 is slated to enter production in 2023. The NARAC 556 assault rifle is based on the Colt AR15.

The Thai armed forces operate the M 16A1 assault rifle as well as the commando CAR 15 carbine and the M 4 carbine, which would all be candidates for replacement with the NARAC 556. "The cost is not more than 50,000 baht per barrel, compared to the same type of imported weapon which costs 80,000 baht per barrel," the official stated. He said that 80 per cent of the new weapon good be produced with technology available in Thailand. The NARAC 556 rifle operates with a short stroke piston gas system and has a dial to adjust rate of fire.

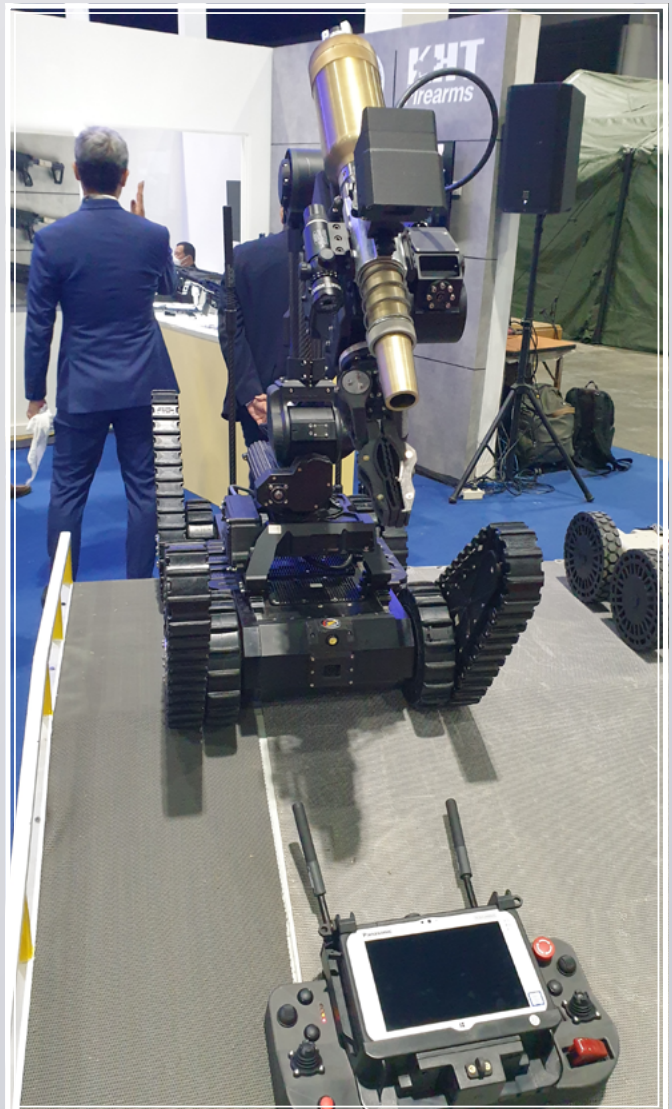
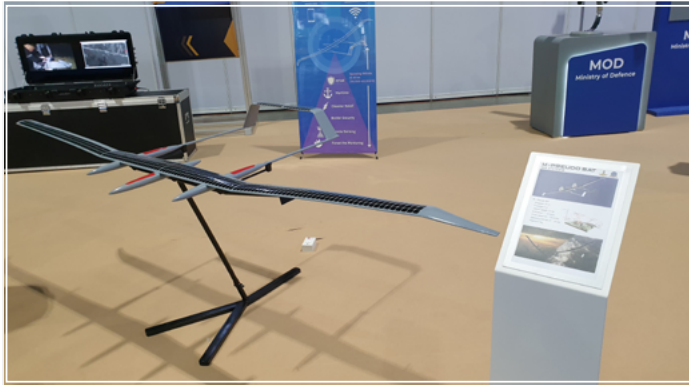
The barrel is placed in a free-floating upper frame and the rifle can operate in all weather conditions, is lightweight and has low recoil. It can be used with NATO standard 5.56 cartridges, both the M 193/ M 855. The magazine has a 30-round capacity.



## ROYAL THAI ARMY SHOWCASES FIELD KITCHEN EQUIPMENT

An Army is said to march on its stomach and the Royal Thai Army (RTA) is showcasing its developments related to development of modern field kitchens for its troops. The individual field kitchen being showcased at Defence & Security is based on all-wheel drive truck which can move on different types of terrain. The mobile kitchen is equipped with a pressure cooker that can cook rice quickly and keep it warm. The cooker has a 105L capacity and reduces the time needed to prepare food for large groups of soldiers. The mobile kitchen also has three cooking stoves, a refrigerator and a 200L water tank and can cater to the needs of more than 400 hungry soldiers. It would also play an important role during disaster relief operations.

# THAILAND SHOWCASES INDIGENOUS UNMANNED SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENTS



and positioning missions. It has four hard points and can carry a max payload 370 kg. ATIL is showcasing the DP20-A with dual-payload bomb racks which can carry multiple munitions at the show. The DP-20A is normally deployed in a group of four UAVs which are supported by a single ground station.

Dr. Niyomthai also told Daily News, that the RTA has also expressed initial interest in the smaller DP16.

"ATIL is also getting interest from other potential customers in the region," while confirming that there had been strong interest from countries in the region, whose delegations are visiting Defence & Security. The DP16 could also be of potential future interest for the RTAF but this requirement is not as urgent as the service presently has sufficient number of UAS to meet its requirements.

The DP16 is a smaller UAV with a 10m wingspan and Dr. Niyomthai said that it was realised from the RTAF's previous operating experience with UAVs, that larger unmanned systems had a bigger logistics footprint, requiring three vehicles – one for the ground

control station to operate the UAS, one for the communications equipment and one for the transport of the UAS itself. For the smaller DP16, this requirement is reduced to only two vehicles needed to transport the UAS and the ground control station, while the communication equipment is much more portable. The attendant savings in operational and life cycle costs are also evident due to the reduced manpower and logistics requirement.

"Speaking on Thai requirements for MALE UAVs, he said similar UAVs in



the global market offer an endurance of 16-20 hours, which was found excessive for Thai requirements. He said the Thai armed forces required only around ten hours of operational endurance and more often than not, six hours of operating endurance was found to be sufficient. He also said longer UAS flights required additional crew due to flight duty restrictions as pilots also need to rest for eight hours before flights.

The DP16 tactical combat UAV capable of conducting ISR combat attack, artillery, fire calibration, battlefield damage assessment, monitoring and patrol missions. It has six hours of endurance with full load. In this configuration, it can travel 700-900 km. When configured in reconnaissance mode with a lighter payload, the drone can stay in the air for 10 hours.

The DP16 has a maximum takeoff weight of 360 kg and a max payload of 80 kg. It can attain a max speed of 180 km per hour and a cruising speed of 120 - 150 kmph. The drone can attain a max ceiling of 18,000 feet and cruise at 10,000 - 13,000 feet.



## SAAB GRIPEN E MAKES MAIDEN METEOR BVRAAM LAUNCH

Saab has announced the first test firing of a Meteor Beyond Visual Range Air-to-Air Missile (BVRAAM) on Gripen. The airframer said that the launch met with a successful end-to-end result on the target. The Gripen E launched the Meteor missile from an altitude of approximately 16,500 ft above the Vidsel test range in northern Sweden.

"It feels very good that we have now completed the first test firing with Meteor from Gripen E. It is a very important milestone both for the programme and for Saab. It shows that the weapon capability of Gripen is at the absolute forefront," said Mikael Olsson, Head of Flight Test & Verification, Saab. Saab's focus of

the flight test programme for Gripen E is on continued development and testing of primarily the tactical systems and as well as integration of a variation of weapons, such as the Meteor.

The Meteor long-range BVRAAM can operate in the most contested environments and the ramjet powered missile can successfully engage a wide variety of targets, from fighter aircraft to small unmanned aerial vehicles and cruise missiles at unrivalled ranges. "This success is a great demonstration of the close partnership between MBDA and Saab, which after many years of active co-operation continues to go from strength to strength. This trial also excellently shows off our joint ability to rapidly integrate weapon capabilities onto the all new Gripen E," said Jim Price, MBDA Vice President Europe. Saab is a partner in the Meteor programme in conjunction with prime contractor MBDA UK.

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