Success of the first HELMA-P laser firings on UAVs in flight

Orléans (France), November 10th 2020

• In mid-October, the first tests of the HELMA-P laser effector developed by CILAS and ArianeGroup took place.
• This is the first time in France that a drone in flight has been destroyed by a laser.
• The French Defense Innovation Agency (AID) and the French defense procurement agency (DGA) supported CILAS in operating the system at the Biscarrosse «Centre d’Essais des Landes».

HELMA-P convinced from the very first shots with its precision, efficiency and ability to neutralize in-flight targets up to one kilometer away in a matter of seconds.

All firings systematically destroyed UAVs capable of speeds above 50 km/h and in difficult target tracking conditions.

HELMA-P provides operational units and internal security forces with a new weapon with a technological breakthrough. Effective at greater distances and providing a radical effect, HELMA-P can support other anti-UAV technologies. HELMA-P is therefore the ultimate neutralization solution.

These first tests at Biscarrosse are a success and must be continued in order to fully characterize the performance of the effector, particularly in terms of range and according to different operational scenarios.

About HELMA-P
The HELMA-P laser effector is a response to the threat posed by UAVs and in particular mini UAVs. Its mission will be to secure operations on national territory during events and to support external operations by identifying, tracking and neutralizing the fixed or agile threat.

The system is offered in fixed or vehicle-integrated configurations and is compatible with a C2 (Command and Control) process or a BMS (Battle Management System).

HELMA-P can be used, for example:
• in the field of UAV control for the protection of sensitive civil or military sites and convoys;
• against improvised explosive devices by neutralizing explosives or destroying electronics;
• in the context of preparing operations, neutralizing light sensors, camera jamming or even de-camouflaging.

1 missile test center
In addition to UAV combat, HELMA-P provides considerable operational gains in air-land combat. The laser effector is capable of damaging the defense and reaction potential of the enemy before an action. HELMA-P is therefore also a system to support the engagement of forces.

HELMA-P benefits from the financial support of AID, the Centre-Val de Loire region and ArianeGroup.

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About CILAS
For over 50 years, CILAS, subsidiary of ArianeGroup and Areva, has been at the leading edge of the modern technology sector thanks to its unique expertise in laser and optronics. With a turnover of 47 million euros in 2018, CILAS develops, manufactures and markets a wide range of products and systems for defence, security, space and industrial instrumentation. The company is also involved in scientific laser programs. CILAS is present in more than 15 countries. Through partnerships with multiple defence organizations and NATO members, CILAS is settling its international presence.

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