



MBDA Mistral ATAM on the HAL Light Combat Helicopter (LCH)

VAYU on-the-spot report

MBDA in India's Defence Partnership

Another year and another exciting MBDA media tour! Straight from the recently concluded DSEi show in London, when on 15 September, select media and PR agency persons from India met up with MBDA executives at Manchester, the start of an amazing 5-day multi-country tour of MBDA facilities.

In quick summary, on 16 September, *Vayu* visited the MBDA facilities at Bolton, UK to be briefed on the company's missile programmes such as the Sea Ceptor, Meteor, ASRAAM and Brimstone, followed by a factory tour of the site. Later in the evening, departed for Paris for next part of the programme at Selles-Saint-Denis. On

17 September, at MBDA's facilities, the media team was again given detailed – and most informative – briefs on missile systems such as the Mistral ATAM, Scalp, NCM, MMP, MICA NG and Exocet, followed by another extensive factory tour!

Back in Paris for the night, next part of the tour was to the La Spezia site (via Florence) in Italy, for briefing on MBDA's anti-ship missile range and solutions which included the Marte Mk2, Marte ER with a detailed overview of the Teseo MK2/A plus Otomat MK2 Block IV, followed by an extensive factory tour.

At all times, we were updated on what MBDA had already offered or is currently

offering to the Indian Armed Forces via JVs/MoUs or simply presentations to the concerned authorities on new products for defence of the Nation, ofcourse, always following the *mantra* of 'Make in India'!

We were briefed on the company's achievements in India over the past many decades and plans including recent JVs with Larson & Toubro as well as with BDL – more on this shortly. MBDA's relationship with the Indian Air Force (*see separate item in this issue*) was highlighted and ofcourse that with HAL.

First, on MBDA itself. The Company is the only European group capable of designing and producing missiles and