



**PRESS RELEASE** – 19 March 2021

## **EUROPEAN COOPERATION IN DEFENSE**

### **OCCAR CONTRACTS EUROSAM FOR SAMP/T NG SYSTEMS**

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#### **THE EUROPEAN LONG-RANGE SURFACE - AIR MISSILE DEFENSE SYSTEM ENHANCED TO FACE THE FUTURE CHALLENGES**

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The contract for the development of the SAMP/T NG (New Generation) for France and Italy has been signed today at OCCAR premises in France (Paris area) in the presence of the French Air and Space Force staff, the Italian Army staff, the OCCAR Director and National representatives of the French Armament General Directorate (DGA) and of the Italian Armament Directorate (SGD). OCCAR has awarded the contract, by delegation of DGA and SGD, to the Franco-Italian consortium **eurosam**; backed by its three shareholders MBDA France, MBDA Italy and Thales.

This contract complements the first contract signed in 2016 with the objective to enhance the SAMP/T systems operational in the French Air and Space Force and the Italian Army.

With this contract, **eurosam** is able to deliver an important enhancement of the SAMP/T system based on:

- An enhanced missile to enlarge the ASTER family: the ASTER Block 1 NT (new technology) with a new seeker and a new computer able to face the new emerging threats.
- An upgraded launcher featuring new electronic equipment.
- A new multifunction rotating Active Electronically Scanned Array radar.
- A command and control module based on upgraded open command and control software architecture and enhanced connectivity.

The SAMP/T NG is designed to achieve all Ground-Based Air Defense missions with enhanced key capabilities. It is a long-range surface-to-air missile defense system able to:

- Operate in a dense civilian air environment, in cooperation with friendly military aircraft and fully integrated into air defense networks.
- Provide a 360-degree protection to armed forces and sensitive civil or military sites.
- Offer a dual capability to defeat simultaneously all types of targets, in any combination of types.
- Counter emerging and future threats as diverse as manoeuvring ballistic missiles, re-entry vehicle ballistic missiles, high-speed tactical missiles, UAVs and highly manoeuvring aircraft, in a saturation attack scenario and a challenging cyber environment.

- Deploy quickly with a limited number of personnel and integrate easily in an air-defense network.

With these enhanced features, SAMP/T NG will provide to France, Italy and any other customer, the capability to guarantee their airspace sovereignty, to protect their territory and population and to protect their troops in operations.

**Note to readers:**

**eurosam** was established in June 1989 as a joint venture of MBDA and Thales, European leaders in missiles, systems and radars, endowing it with major expertise in terms of solutions for air defense. **eurosam** is the industrial prime contractor and system design authority for the development, production, marketing, sales and in service support of a range of medium and long range naval and ground-launched air-defense missile systems also known as Future Surface-to-Air Family of ASTER missile systems. These systems were developed under contract from the French and Italian Governments, who in the late 1980s had come to similar conclusions as to their air-defense operational requirements. This cooperation, enlarged to the UK in 1996, has experienced export successes, both in naval and land configurations.

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