

EXOCET MM40 BLOCK 3C NEW GENERATION LONG RANGE ANTI-SHIP MISSILE SYSTEM

The Hellenic Parliament's special committee for Foreign Affairs and Defence recently approved the procurement of 16 MM-40 Block 3C Exocet missiles, valued at €33 million. These missiles, manufactured by MBDA, will be integrated into the Hellenic Navy- Fast Boat Command's inventory.

The Exocet Block 3C features a 200 km range, more than double the range of its predecessor, the Block 2 (70 km). Unlike older versions, the Block 3C can target coastal installations and strategic infrastructure, broadening its operational use.

The Exocet MM40 Block 3 weapon system is the latest generation ship-borne version of the Exocet family and is in operational service with several navies.

Exocet MM40 Block 3 provides enhanced operational performance and technology upgrades, while minimising the impact on procurement and logistic support costs.

Exocet MM40 Block 3's Mission Planning software module automatically computes engagement plans to support firing decisions.

The flexibility of the Exocet MM40 Block 3 weapon is further enhanced by the accuracy of the new navigation package, allowing optimized 3D approach trajectories and terminal attacks from different azimuths, at very low sea skimming altitude with simultaneous time on target. The terminal guidance relies on a sophisticated J-band active seeker to discriminate and select targets at sea and on the GPS accuracy for land targets.

Exocet MM40 Block 3 is compatible with most of the logistic support assets already in service. Its launching system is interoperable with all MM40 versions, thus enabling a smooth transition to Block 3.

- Combat proven
- All weather
- Multi-target
- Long range capability against moving targets
- Littoral warfare and coastal land attack
- Compatible with existing EXOCET MM40 assets

Operational advantages

- Maritime superiority missile, from deterrence to engagement
- Fire-and-forget
- Provides long range strike capability in all environments (brown and blue waters) with a high probability of intercept
- All-weather
- Ensures a high-penetration probability against the most strongly defended surface targets
- Multi-target
- Salvo capability
- Littoral warfare and coastal land attack
- Comprehensive and easy-to-use Mission Planning System

Airframe

- Optimised for high-G terminal manoeuvres
- Low observability: reduced IR and RCS signatures

Propulsion

- A single jettisoned rocket booster at launch and a new turbojet engine, giving operational flexibility and long-range engagement

Navigation

- 3D way-points navigation based on a hybrid INS/GPS package and a radar altimeter
- Self-adapted sea-skimming

Terminal guidance

- Advanced J-band active RF seeker with adaptive search patterns
- Land attack on coordinates

Warhead

- Insensitive warhead
- Optimised HE blast and pre-fragmented effects
- Impact fuze and proximity function

Technical characteristics/specifications

- Weight: 780kg
- Length: < 6m
- Diameter: 350mm
- Speed: High subsonic

The new Belharra frigates of the Hellenic Navy will also be equipped with Exocet missiles, bolstering their anti-aircraft and anti-surface warfare capabilities.

