

DRDO successfully tests anti-tank missile

Even as India is yet to acquire Spike anti-tank guided missiles fired from shoulder from Israel, the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) is conducting tests on indigenously designed Man Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile (MPATGM). The second flight test of the missile was successfully conducted on Sunday at the Ahmed Nagar range in Maharashtra.

The missile can be fired by an infantry soldier from his shoulder to destroy enemy tanks at ranges varying from three to four km. The Army desperately needs them to replace the older Milan and Konkur missiles.

The indigenously developed MPATGM is a third generation system and if it meets all parameters specified by the Army will be inducted into infantry and parachute battalions. The DRDO has developed the system in collaboration with an Indian private sector defence unit which is supplying sub-systems, sources said here.

The official statement issued after the test said all the mission objectives were met during trial and the two missions on Saturday and Sunday have been successfully flight tested for different ranges including the maximum range capability. Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman congratulated the DRDO, Indian Army and associated Industries for the twin success of MPATGM weapon system.

Equipped with fire and forget mechanism with lock before launch, the missile has an effective range of more than 2,500 metres. The warhead on the missile can penetrate 750mm to 850mm and the system is dual mode with the capability of day and night imaging infra red seeker. The total weight of the portable missile system is about 19kg, sources said.

With the Army needing more than 50,000 such systems, efforts are on to buy a limited number of Spike missiles from Israel through Government to government route to plug critical gaps as the DRDO missile will take at least three to four years before declared operationally ready, sources said.

As per earlier plans the Army wanted to buy more than 8,400 Spike systems in a deal worth over one billion dollars. However, the Government decided to scrap the plan and opted for the indigenous missile system. Since it will take some time, the Army has urged the Government to allow it buy about 4,500 Spike systems worth over 500 million dollars as a stop gap arrangement and the Government is favourably inclined, they said. The Spike system has longer range than the indigenous system and can hit a target beyond five kms.

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The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) on Sunday successfully tested a low-weight indigenously developed man-portable anti-tank guided missile (MPATGM) at its Ahmednagar range, officials said

It was the second MPATGM test, the DRDO said, adding that the first was tested on Saturday.

"The two flight-tests were for different ranges, including maximum range capability," a Defence Ministry statement said. "All the mission objectives have been met."

Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman congratulated the DRDO, Indian Army and associated industries for the success of the MPATGM weapon system.

Indigenous anti-tank missile test-fired

An indigenously developed Man Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile (MPATGM) was successfully flight tested for the second time from Ahmednagar test range on Sunday.

It has been developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

“All the mission objectives have been met. The two missions on September 15 and 16 have been successfully flight tested for different ranges, including the maximum range capability,” the DRDO said in a statement.

This low-weight MPATGM will complement the Spike Anti-Tank Guided Missile to be procured from Israel.

Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman congratulated the DRDO team, the Army and associated industries on their success.

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Meet Eyerov TUNA, India’s 1st Commercial Underwater Drone for DRDO Lab, made by Kerala Startup

EyeROV TUNA is a smart micro-ROV (Remotely Operated Vehicle), at par with global standards, and with operational capabilities in harsh and mission-critical underwater environment

Kochi-based start-up IROV Technologies Pvt Ltd (EyeROV) is launching commercial underwater drones by handing over the first vehicle to Naval Physical and Oceanographic Laboratory (NPOL), a laboratory of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO). The company, backed by Kerala Start-Up Mission, oil and gas firm BPCL and the Department of Science and Technology, claims the product is the first indigenously-developed commercial underwater drone in the country.

The EyeROV TUNA is a smart micro-ROV (Remotely Operated Vehicle) or underwater drone, at par with global standards, and with operational capabilities in harsh and mission-critical



underwater environment. EyeROV is designed to perform visual inspection and surveys of submerged structures as a cost-effective underwater rover that works up to a depth of 100 metres. It can be e-controlled using a laptop or a joystick. A camera fitted on to the underwater drone, gives a live video feed of the submarine environment. The product is equipped to perform a variety of functions, including inspection of ship hulls, fish farms, dams, port structure and bridge foundations.

The company is bidding for various defence projects and has received its first order from NPOL, where the drone is expected to help the Laboratory in research operations. The first drone is being handed over the NPOL today (Friday, September 14) evening. The product is also useful in various underwater research

operations and is expected to be sold to research institutes in this field, said Johns T Mathai, founder of the company.

"Our vision is to disrupt the underwater critical infrastructure inspections industry," said Mathai, who said that the cost of the drone would depend upon the size and features of the equipment. While there are OEMs and companies like Chennai-based Planys Technologies manufacturing underwater drones, this is for the first time it is made commercially available, he averred. the production is mostly outsourced.

The company recently got recognition from BPCL Project Ankur startup scheme and Kerala Startup Mission Idea Grant Scheme. The company has been founded by Johns T Mathai, an IIT-Delhi alumnus and Kannappa Palaniappan P (IIT-Madras). Johns has worked in Samsung R&D, Bengaluru, and Grey Orange Robotics for over three years.

Kannappa has Industrial experience working in Saint Gobain and National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT).

The company also has mentors and advisors who were earlier with DRDO, the Indian Navy and the marine industry. It is now incubated at Maker Village, Kochi, an initiative of Govt of India and Govt of Kerala.

https://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/kochi-start-up-makes-india-s-first-commercial-underwater-drone-for-drdo-lab-118091400457_1.html