

CIS

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Airbus Defence and Space wins three major cryptographic key management system contracts for the UK F-35B, MRTT Voyager and Hercules C-130J aircraft

Airbus Defence and Space, a key player in the cyber security market in Europe, has been awarded three contracts from the UK Ministry of Defence (MoD) to provide three additional military aircraft with its world-leading cryptographic key management technology. These follow previous contract wins for both the Eurofighter Typhoon and the Airbus A400M.

The Local Key Management System (LKMS) technology will be supplied to the UK F-35 Lightning II fifth generation fighter aircraft programme, the UK Voyager Programme which provides the Royal Air Force (RAF) with an air-to-air refuelling capability and the UK C-130J Hercules which provides the RAF with Tactical Air Transport (TacAT). The UK MoD has taken delivery of four of the F-35B variant, the short take off/vertical landing design planned for use with the Queen Elizabeth Class Aircraft Carriers. An additional four F-35B aircraft are scheduled to be delivered this year as part of a programme to equip the RN and RAF with the aircraft. There are currently 14 Voyager Aircraft in service with the RAF and 25 C-130J Hercules.

Developed by Airbus's team of cryptography experts at its facility in Newport, South Wales, the LKMS technology receives, translates and packages cryptographic keys so that they can be loaded using a single fill gun into the End Crypto Units (ECUs) on the aircraft before every mission. This enables quicker turn-around times and re-profiling for new missions, thus improving the overall efficiency and effectiveness of airborne operations.

The LKMS provides increased flexibility and permits prolonged out-of-area operation through the ability to store and distribute multiple cryptographic keys. It also provides the highest protection for encrypted data - preventing data compromise that could threaten the safety and security of an aircraft mission. The three separate contracts will see Airbus Defence and Space design, develop, manufacture, accredit and deliver the LKMS technology, based on modifications to the current system in use with Typhoon and A400M.

"We are delighted to be awarded three prestigious contracts from the Ministry of Defence to work on major UK aircraft programmes," said Dr Phil Jones, Head of Countries and Operations for CyberSecurity at Airbus Defence and Space. "We already provide cryptographic key management technology for the A400M and the Eurofighter Typhoon and these contract wins confirm our position as market leaders in the field."

"CyberSecurity" is the Business Cluster within Airbus Defence and Space providing governmental, defence, critical national infrastructure and enterprises with its trusted, high performance security products and services, in order to detect, analyse and counter advanced cyber-attacks."

About Airbus Defence and Space

Airbus Defence and Space, a division of Airbus Group, is Europe's number one defence and space enterprise and the second largest space business worldwide. Its activities include space, military aircraft and related systems and services. It employs more than 38,000 people and in 2015 generated revenues of over 13 billion Euros.

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