



Beyond the Shield: DELUGE and MBDA's Strategy to Neutralize Modern Air Defenses

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In a geopolitical landscape characterized by high-intensity conflicts, the ability to overcome adversary air defenses has become an absolute strategic priority. Responding to this need, **MBDA** has unveiled **DELUGE** (previously known as *ONE WAY EFFECTOR*), a tactical munition specifically designed to saturate enemy defenses through low-cost, long-range mass attacks.

The Project Philosophy: Effectiveness Through Mass

Modern doctrine has highlighted how high-end weapon systems, while essential, must be supported by low-cost assets capable of "exhausting" or saturating the adversary's multilayered air defenses. DELUGE was created to fill this gap, offering a solution capable of being produced on a large scale without sacrificing precision.

Main Technical Features

DELUGE is designed to ensure an optimal balance between performance, ease of production, and operational versatility:

- **Autonomy and Speed:** Powered by a turbojet, it reaches a speed of about 400 km/h.
- **Range:** Operational up to 500 km, allowing *stand-off* operations that keep friendly forces safe.
- **Payload:** 50 kg class payload, optimized to neutralize defended targets.
- **Design:** Three-meter wingspan with an aerodynamic profile that favors robustness for medium-altitude flight.



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Industrial Agility and Rapid Development

One of the most innovative aspects of DELUGE is its development and production model. MBDA has demonstrated unprecedented speed, moving from the first prototype flight in September 2025 to the first live-fire test in November of the same year.

This rapid pace was made possible by an **agile industrial model**, integrating synergies with the civilian sector and mass assembly lines. The goal is clear: to ensure maximum operational availability for the armed forces.

Towards Operational Deployment

The solidity of the program is evidenced by the first contract already signed with the French **Direction Générale de l'Armement (DGA)**. Thanks to large-scale production capability, the

first production batch is expected by **2027**.

Why DELUGE is a Game Changer:

1. **Compatibility:** Uses standard warheads and fuels, facilitating storage and logistics.
2. **Adaptability:** Designed to be quickly updated based on the evolution of the battlefield.
3. **Saturation:** Coordinated salvo use allows for maintaining constant and unsustainable pressure on adversary air defenses.

Conclusion

With DELUGE, MBDA is not just producing a new missile, but introducing a true **strategic attrition capability**. In a world where operational superiority is also measured by the ability to manage attrition in prolonged conflicts, DELUGE stands as a fundamental pillar of European technological sovereignty, providing the armed forces with an effective, economical tool ready for future challenges.