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UAE is first export success for CIRIT

By: David Donald

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Turkey's Roketsan (Stand 10-D15) has received an order for its CIRIT laserguided rocket from Tawazun, which will supply the weapon to the UAE Armed Forces under an AED720 million (US\$196 million) contract. Roketsan is hoping to sign a second export deal for the system later this year.

CIRIT is now in production for the Turkish Armed Forces. Unlike some competing 2.75in/70mm laser-guided rocket offerings, CIRIT is an all-new weapon.

Roketsan has developed a new composite propellant motor for the weapon that increases range from 6-8km, while reducing smoke signature.

A multipurpose warhead with anti-armour, antipersonnel and incendiary effects has been designed for CIRIT that meets stringent insensitive munition requirements. Guidance in the terminal phase is by semi-active laser, designated by onboard or off-board lasers that are compatible with NATO STANAG 3733. Midcourse guidance is by an inertial measurement unit provided by UTC Aerospace Systems.

As well as the weapon itself, the UAE contract also covers the CIRIT's smart launchers. Available in two-round or four-round configurations, the launchers are Mil-Std-1553 and -1760 compatible, providing two-way communication between the weapon and launch platform. CIRIT can be fired by a variety of platforms.

Roketsan is also ready to begin production of the Stand Off Missile. The SOM was developed by Tübitak SAGE, which remains the design authority, but Roketsan will build it and market it for export.

With a range of more than 100 nautical miles, the turbojet-powered SOM is an air-launched weapon that is designed for use against heavily defended targets. Guidance is by GPS/INS with radar altimeter/ terrain-referencing and an imaging infrared seeker for automatic terminal guidance.

SOM is already cleared for use with the F-4 Phantom, and this summer clearance work will be undertaken for the F-16. Roketsan and Tübitak SAGE have schemed modifications that will allow the weapon to be carried internally by the F-35.

