

Maritime Battle Decisive Munitions (MBDM)

Letter of Intent ¹ signed	Memorandum of Understanding ² signed	1 st delivery	Further deliveries
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Participants



What is MBDM?

The Maritime Battle Decisive Munitions (MBDM) High Visibility Project³ includes all munition defined by participating Allies and partners as decisive for operations in the maritime domain. The variety of ammunition is widespread and includes surface-to-air missiles, surface-to-surface missiles, torpedoes, and gun shells.



Main naval gun on an Italian frigate.

Multinational effort

The MBDM High Visibility Project provides a framework for the acquisition and life-cycle management of key munitions for the maritime domain. Furthermore, it aims to increase flexibility in stockpile management by decreasing legal and technical obstacles to sharing and exchanging munitions.

It was launched during the 2018 NATO Summit when the Defence Ministers of Belgium, France, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, and Spain signed a Letter of Intent. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed by these seven Allies, as well as NATO partner nation Finland, at the Defence Ministers' Meeting in June 2019.

This Memorandum of Understanding provides the legal basis for the participants to jointly acquire a wide range of maritime munitions. Within the Memorandum of Understanding, the participants have agreed on establishing a management group with a rotating lead nation role. The management group is responsible for identifying potential cooperation activities, which are further elaborated and carried out in separate munition-specific subgroups.



1 Initial non-binding document outlining participants' will to explore the area in question further.
 2 Legally binding document specifying details of cooperation.
 3 Multinational initiative tailored to address key capability areas, usually launched at Defence Ministers' level.

Why is it important?

The project will make the provision of MBDM stockpiles more efficient and effective by aggregating national procurement requirements as well as simplifying technical and legal processes for sharing and exchanging munitions. Overall, the management of munitions throughout their whole lifetimes can be systematically done on a multinational level. In the long term, the project endeavors to increase the interchangeability of MBDM stockpiles, as well as achieving greater commonality among the nations' inventories.

Did you know?



1. MBDM is the third High Visibility Project in the area of munitions; the previous two being Land Battle Decisive Munitions (LBDM) and Air Battle Decisive Munitions (ABDM).
2. Participants have started to explore together with the United States the potential application of the innovative US Lead Nation Procurement Initiative principles to MBDM with a view to achieving cost savings and acceleration of delivery comparable to the ABDM High Visibility Project.