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Meteor wins UK missile competition

Europe's aerospace companies led by Anglo-French joint venture, Matra BAe Dynamics, yesterday won the battle for the primary missile system to equip the Royal Air Force's Eurofighter. Saab Dynamics is the Swedish member of the industrial Meteor team.

Meteor will be developed in collaboration between Britain, Germany, Italy, France, Spain and Sweden.

Meteor, the most advanced Beyond Visual Range Air-to-Air Missile (BVRAAM), beat off intense competition from US competitor Raytheon.

Meteor's ramjet technology and advanced seeker capabilities will provide the RAF and other European air forces with a missile to arm Eurofighter, JAS 39 Gripen and Rafale with sustained high speed, ultra long range and agility to defeat all threats for the foreseeable future.

Meteor will further develop the high technology base of the collaboration nations. Initially, the programme will create and sustain 2,500 jobs across Europe. With global exports the figure could increase to 5,000.

Anders Andersson, Saab Dynamics' President, said: "This decision is very important for the Swedish missile industry, recently integrated in accordance with desires from the Swedish Defence in the Saab business area Saab Bofors Dynamics. We will now participate in a large European missile programme and work with high-qualified tasks as partner to the leading missile companies in Europe. We contribute in our competence areas on missile system level as well as on sub-system level with development and production of sensor oriented equipment."

Saab is Northern Europe's leading high technology company and operates within the defense and aerospace areas and offers leading-edge products and systems built on sophisticated information technology. Its business areas are Infomatics, Aerospace, Dynamics, Technical Support & Services, Space and Aviation Services.

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