

News Release

2 December 2009

Cobham Demonstrates Reusable Cold Gas Cartridge-Equipped Bomb Rack

WIMBORNE, United Kingdom – Cobham has successfully demonstrated a new, cleaner, reusable technology capable of ejecting light stores from bomb racks. The Cold Gas Cartridge was successfully demonstrated at the Overberg Test Centre in South Africa on 20th November 2009.

The Cold Gas Cartridge was fitted to Cobham's Carrier Bomb Light Stores (CBLs) on a South African Air Force Hawk light attack jet. Four 12.5kg practice stores were released from the aircraft flying at a speed of 450 knots in both level and dive flight profiles.

The Cold Gas Cartridge has been designed to be reusable and will achieve the equivalent performance of traditional single-shot pyrotechnic cartridges. The system is "inherently clean" because without pyrotechnics to eject the stores, acidic debris does not accumulate, thus reducing the need for launcher maintenance and associated spares consumption. This has the advantage of significantly reducing the lifecycle cost of the system. Added benefits of the Cold Gas Cartridge include simplified logistics support in comparison with pyrotechnics.



A South African Air Force Hawk light attack aircraft equipped with a Cobham Carrier Bomb Light Stores (CBLs) ejector rack with four 12.5kg practice bombs ready to be dropped using Cobham's Cold Gas Cartridge.

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News Release

Installation of the Cold Gas Cartridge into an ejector release unit is a simple and quick process requiring no modification to the aircraft whilst offering weight and space saving compared to compressor and accumulator systems.

Cold Gas is now available for retro-fit in around one thousand Cobham CBLs practice bomb systems throughout the world. All future CBLs systems will be fitted with Cold Gas Cartridges.

About Cobham:

Cobham's products and services have been at the heart of sophisticated military and civil systems for 75 years, keeping people safe, improving communications, and enhancing the capability of land, sea, air and space platforms. The Company has four divisions employing more than 12,000 people on five continents, with customers and partners in over 100 countries and annual revenue of more than £1.4bn / \$2.1 billion.

Cobham Mission Equipment provides a 'wingtip to wingtip' capability offering a comprehensive range of weapons carriage and release equipment including missile launchers, cryogenic cooling for missile seekers, pneumatic missile fin actuation and wing store carriers, bomb ejection, defensive aids, chaff and flare systems. The company is also the world market leader for air-to-air refuelling, providing fourth generation 'nose to tail' solutions from the cockpit of the donor aircraft to the tail of the receiver platform. More than 1,000 systems have been delivered for buddy-buddy refuelling, tactical and strategic tanking for fixed wing aircraft and helicopters, with UAV development well advanced.

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