

Belarus company to begin EW pod deliveries

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DEFENCE INITIATIVES (OBORONITELNIE

Initiatiivi), a new company from Belarus, is delivering two sets of its newly-developed Talisman Blok 1 airborne electronic warfare (EW) self-defence suite to its first customer. Each system consists of two pods mounted on underwing attachment points one and six. These are designed to cover an azimuth sector of ± 45 degrees and an elevation sector of ± 30

degrees. The company is currently finalising the ground trials of the Talisman Blok 123 system, a version designed to be carried by underwing attachment points three and nine of the modernised Su-25 'Frogfoot' ground-attack aircraft. Flight trials are due to be conducted in March and will be followed by the start of production.

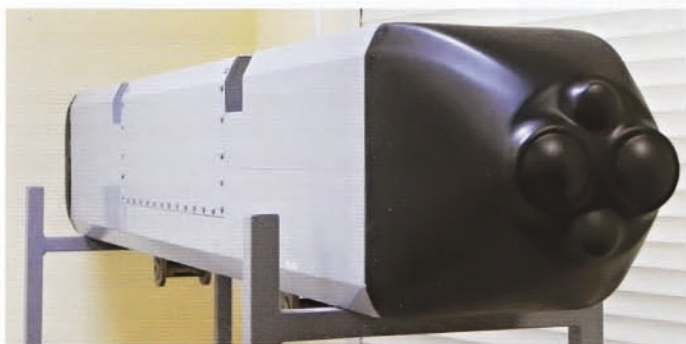
Both systems are mounted in T-29 universal pods manufactured by the Aircraft Repair Plant in Orsha, Belarus. Each pod is 2,278 mm long,

230 mm wide and 290 mm high. Its empty weight is less than 50 kg. The pods can be carried at speeds up to 2,400 m/s and at altitudes of up to 59,000 ft. They can cope with loads of up to 10 g (or 15 g for a short time).

Although the pods that make up a Talisman system occupy two of the aircraft's underwing attachment points, it is possible to mount an APU-72 rail-launcher with an R-73 (Product 72) air-to-air missile on the pod's underside.

Defence Initiatives now uses a standardised nomenclature for its EW systems. The suite name (such as Talisman) and the word 'Blok' is followed by one or more numbers. The number '1' indicates that the system operates in the frequency range 8.0-12.0 GHz, '2' indicates 12.0-18.0 GHz, '3' indicates 6.0-8.0 GHz and '3E' indicates 4.0-8.0 GHz.

An alphabetic character can be added to the designation to indicate the type of radar a system is intended to counter. 'R' indicates surveillance radars, while 'D' indicates fire-control radars. ■



This view of the Talisman Blok 1 shows the pod's antennas.

US Army successfully flies new ballistic missile target

DOUG RICHARDSON

THE US ARMY Space and Missile Defense Command (SMDC)/Army Forces Strategic Command (AFSC) successfully completed a test flight of the new Economical Target-1 (ET-1) at Eglin Air Force Base, Florida, on 15 February.

Launched from the Santa Rosa Test Site with the support of the 46th Test Wing at Eglin Air Force Base, the target was tracked by several range sensors during its flight of approximately four minutes. It landed in the ocean area within the test range, and preliminary indications suggested that all data collection objectives were met. ET-1 also acted as a target of opportunity for the Weibel portable radar system owned and operated by Eglin Air Force Base. This provides extremely detailed tracking and performance data. "The launch was good," said Bryon Manley, SMDC/ARSTRAT Technical Center flight test services chief. "It went off without a hitch Mission requirements for future ET-1 flight tests will be determined based on the results of today's test. The army and Department of Defense require threat-representative targets in test-

ing," Manley explained. "The ET-1 provides a cost-effective, rail-launched, theatre-class tactical ballistic missile target."

ET-1 is designed to fill capability gaps in the current range of threat-representative targets, and could be used for trials of the Patriot Advanced Concept-3 (PAC-3) surface-to-air missile. It is intended to have a production cost of less than USD500,000.

The US Army is the prime integrator for

the vehicle, which makes maximum use of existing hardware available as Government-Furnished Equipment (GFE) and commercial off-the-shelf fins. "The ET-1 vehicle was assembled at Holloman Air Force Base," said Manley. "The body and motor are GFE, the nose and tail assembly was produced at Holloman Air Force Base and that is why this combination makes the ET-1 economical."

ET-1 is intended to require fewer resources than existing targets, such as PATRIOT-as-a-target. Its all-metal casing and configurable nose section will make it more representative of real-world threats. A Specially tailored forebody and tail can sections will allow changes to on-board instrumentation and radar cross-section signature. The new target will be used in operational testing, training, lot acceptance, annual service practice and other testing of US missile defence systems.

The ET-1 was launched using the new 25K Transportable Target Launcher. Another SMDC product, this is a transportable, mission-configurable 25,000 lb capacity launcher developed to support the operational testing of theatre-class tactical ballistic missile targets. ■

The Economical Target-1 was successfully launched from the new Transportable Target Launcher at Eglin Air Force Base, Florida.

