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PHOENIX II battlefield demonstration trial : COBRA MK2 multi-mission unmanned ground vehicle



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French company Groupe ECA has trialed its COBRA MK2 multi-mission unmanned ground vehicle during PHOENIX II battlefield demonstration trial held at the Mourmelon military base in France from May 5 to 27, 2011.

COBRA MK2 has been developed to carry out reconnaissance and as well as EOD (Explosive Ordnance Disposal) and IED (Improvised Explosive Device) detection & neutralization tasks.

COBRA MK2 wheeled system has a weight of 5,6 kg (without the payload), a typical endurance of two or six hours depending the energy set, a maximum working range of up to 130 meters and a top speed of 7,5 km/h.

The vehicle is remotely controlled by a command & control terminal which comprises a touch screen tablet or a PDA (Personal Digital Assistant), small joysticks and a microphone & speaker helmet.

The mission payload could include a recoilless disruptor, laser pointer & video camera, a 360° video camera, a jamming system or a dropping charge mechanism.

Basic fittings include an inertial navigation system, global positioning system, front and rear cameras, odometer, lightings and an acoustic device.

As option, COBRA MK2 could be equipped with a tracks kit.

Note that the COBRA MK2 vehicle can be linked to Sagem SA FELIN (Fantassin à Équipements et Liaisons Intégrés) soldier system via its SIT ComDé information system (Système d'Information Terminal du Combattant Débarqué). Sagem SA is delivering several FELIN systems to the French Army under orders placed by the DGA.

The PHOENIX II contract was awarded by French Ministry of Defence procurement agency DGA (Direction Générale de l'Armement) in October 2009 to Sagem SA and Thales. The two French companies also worked with Cassidian, MBDA, Nexter Systems, Novadem, Groupe ECA and Aerophile SA.

It is used to study evolving front-line combat conditions and scenarios by exploiting the digital battlefield to develop key information capabilities that could be used in French Army (Armée de Terre) SCORPION (Synergie du COntact Renforcé par la Polyvalence et l'Infovalorisation) modernization project. The development phase of SCORPION project has been awarded by the DGA to the MARS (Maitrise de l'ARchitecture SCORPION) consortium.

MARS comprise French companies Sagem SA, Thales and Nexter Systems.

