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Czech Air Force seals delivery of two BIRD AMPS

24th October 2017 - 10:10 GMT | by [Tim Martin](#) in London

The Czech Air Force has received delivery of two additional Airborne Missile Protection Systems (AMPS) from **BIRD Aerosystems**.

The deal, sealed in Q3, is further to the air force already successfully deploying other **BIRD developed AMPS** in Afghanistan and also during domestic missions.

Specifically reserved for future international missions, including Afghanistan, the purchase will be an integral part of maintaining crew safety.

The system itself will be used to counter the threat of MANPADS and is designed to detect surface to air missile attacks through countermeasure alerts and by directional IR countermeasures, which jams a missile's IR seeker.

In terms of its functionality, the system relies on UV sensors which receive an alert to the possibility of a missile launch. Aircraft crew are then provided with visual and audio notifications, directly linked to their mission control and display unit.

Shaul Mazor, VP of marketing at BIRD, explained to *Shephard* that technological improvements made to the latest AMPS model has eradicated so called 'false alarm' issues - a challenge that's historically caused acute navigation problems for pilots - most notably during night missions.

Based on previous designs, 'false alarms' would mistakenly alert a pilot to an attack due to AMPS being overly sensitive. The associated danger of such an occurrence is that pilots are forced to take precautionary measures to adjust their mission, despite the fact that no attack is imminent.

'It's a distinct advantage for pilots that they no longer have to worry about false alarms [with the AMPS technology] and with detection of false ground threats being eliminated by the MACS they can focus fully on their missions with less fear or distractions,' Mazor said.

While he would not be drawn on whether other contracts for AMPS were due to be signed off in the near future, Mazor did say that talks with several other NATO members were ongoing.

To date, BIRD has delivered hundreds of AMPS mainly in Europe and America with the technology certified by Airbus Helicopters and the MIL Design Bureau.

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