

Godrej Aerospace completes first batch of BrahMos missile air frames

A successful public-private association for indigenous production of sophisticated weaponry

Mumbai, 21 November, 2013: In continuation to its ongoing contribution to the Indian Defence sector, Godrej Aerospace, a business within Godrej & Boyce Mfg. Co. Ltd., has completed and handed over the First Production Order of 40 sets of BrahMos missile air-frame assemblies to BAPL (BrahMos Aerospace Pvt. Ltd.). To celebrate this landmark achievement, Dr. Pillai - MD & CEO of BAPL, visited Godrej Aerospace and was handed over the order completion documentation by Mr. Jamshyd N. Godrej, Chairman and Managing Director, Godrej & Boyce Mfg. Co. Ltd.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Jamshyd Godrej, Chairman and Managing Director, Godrej & Boyce Mfg. Co. Ltd. said, "The association between Godrej and BrahMos Aerospace Private Limited (BAPL) dates way back to August 2000 and it has been an exciting journey so far. Last month, Godrej Aerospace completed the First Production Order of 40 sets of missile air-frame assemblies. Based on our superior performance and dedication to this endeavour, the second serial production order of another 100 sets has also been awarded to Godrej Aerospace. For more than a decade, we have been committed to the cause of indigenous manufacturing of advanced weapon systems for our country and will continue to do so in the future."

Dr. Pillai, MD & CEO – BrahMos said, "Our association with Godrej in contributing to the Indian Defence sector has been very fruitful. We have crossed another milestone in this relationship, thus strengthening it. Godrej's investment in exclusive facilities for BrahMos has made it a partner of choice. This has given us the confidence to deepen our relationship with Godrej by awarding them with additional orders for BrahMos missile air-frame assemblies as well as by increasing their scope of work for BrahMos. I'm certain that, together, we will set new benchmarks for public-private partnerships towards indigenous development and production of sophisticated weapon systems."

Mr. Kaustubh Shukla - Chief Operating Officer, Industrial Products at Godrej & Boyce Mfg. Co. Ltd., added, "Godrej's association with BrahMos and DRDO (Defence Research and Development Organisation) has been extensive. Besides partnering for the development and serial manufacture of BrahMos missile air-frame assemblies, we continue to participate in the development, supply and life cycle support of Mobile Autonomous Launchers (MAL) for the BrahMos missile, for the Indian Armed Forces."

About the BrahMos missile:

The BrahMos missile is a supersonic cruise missile with a flight range of upto 290 km. It carries a conventional warhead weighing 200 – 300 kilos. It can cruise at an altitude as high as 15 km and as low as 10 m above the ground and maintains supersonic speed (more than 1 km per second) throughout the duration of its flight. Once the BrahMos missile is fired, it doesn't need any further guidance from a control center. This makes it a 'Fire and Forget' missile.

The BrahMos missile is highly versatile and can be launched from positions on land, in air or water to seek and destroy targets on land and on water. Its sheer speed makes it a highly lethal weapon. Its pin-point accuracy helps minimise collateral damage.

The association of Godrej with BrahMos project started with the signing of MOU between BrahMos, DRDL & Godrej in August 2000, based on the visit and recommendation of teams from DRDL (India), NPOM(Russia)&BrahMos in Feb 2000.

The first successful launch of a BrahMos missile took place on June 12th, 2001 from a land based launcher at the interim test range off the Chandipur coast of Orissa.

Role of Godrej Aerospace:

Initially, Godrej was awarded an order for developing two units of engineering models in equivalent alloy, in Jan 2001. The scope of supply included the airframe section with combined pneumo-hydro systems, wing, fin, nose-cap and nose-cap motors.

Making these complex, precision components robust enough to function at supersonic speeds required Godrej to understand 1200 Russian drawings, 2500 Russian manufacturing standards, 25 various types of metallurgies, acquire 25 specialised technologies. Under this program Godrej Aerospace has designed & developed 5000 process sheets for various manufacturing processes, inspection and quality assurance. More than 2000 tools, jigs and fixtures were developed and qualified for the final desired output.

Even though investments in such specialised manufacturing typically take very long to pay back, Godrej has stayed committed to this strategic defence endeavour and will continue to do so.

The key milestones of the BrahMos – Godrej relationship are:

- December 2004: First engineering mock-up completed
- March 2009: 15 developmental sets of airframe assemblies completed and supplied to DRDL
- March 2009: Godrej facility attested as BrahMos Production Facility by Russian experts
- February 2007: BrahMos places order for 40 sets of airframe assemblies on Godrej
- October 2009: Supplies to BrahMos begin
- August 2011: Additional order of 100 sets placed on Godrej
- March 2013: Supply of sub-assemblies of the additional 100 sets begins
- September 2013: Supply of first 40 sets completed
- November 2013 : Handover of the 1st assembly of the next set of 100 missile air-frames

AboutBrahMos Aerospace Limited:

BrahMos Aerospace Private Limited (BAPL) is a 50.5 : 49.5 joint venture between DRDO, India and NPOM, Russia, which was formed in 1998. The aim of the partnership was to design, develop, manufacture and market the world's only supersonic cruise missile system. This venture would build missiles suitable for both Indian and Russian requirements. In future, BAPL may also consider exporting to friendly countries.

About Godrej & Boyce Mfg. Co. Ltd:

Founded in 1897, Godrej enjoys the patronage and trust of over 600 million Indians every single day. With its roots in self-reliance for an emerging, independent India, it has always been perceived as a trustworthy, reliable brand. Today, Godrej endeavours to offer contemporary, advanced and aesthetically superior products and solutions that are built on the foundation of decades of deep customer insight and understanding.

Godrej & Boyce Mfg. Co. Ltd., the holding company of the Godrej group is one of India's most respected family owned, privately held companies. Its journey began with the manufacture of high quality locks. Today, it has a significant presence in various businesses that include consumer durables (such as refrigerators, washing machines, air conditioners, locks, home security systems and safes, and furniture), products for institutions (office furniture, audio-visual solutions, access control systems, perimeter security solutions, bank security solutions, beverage vending machines, interior solutions, hospital and laboratory furniture) and industrial products (such as process equipment, material handling equipment, industrial storage solutions, tooling, aerospace systems and nuclear power equipment).

While these businesses seem diverse, they are unified in that their development was founded on the principles of self-reliance and superior engineering capabilities.

Headquartered in Pirojshanagar at Vikhroli, Mumbai, it has operations across all major global markets such as Europe, U.S., Middle East, Africa and South East Asia. Mr. Jamshyd Godrej is the company's Chairman and Managing Director.

Apart from being one of India's foremost brands & business houses, Godrej is also well known as a responsible corporate citizen. This is best exemplified in its conservation of one of the world's largest privately owned mangroves reserves.

Godrej's 'Good & Green' initiative focuses on increasing employability of underprivileged youth through vocational training, creating a greener India through an eco-sustainable approach towards business and developing environmentally friendly solutions for even the lowest income class of consumers.

As India marches ahead confidently on the global stage, Godrej will endeavour to partner in its progress through its ingenuity, attention to detail and world class manufacturing practices...all essential ingredients for a Brighter Future.