

PRESS RELEASE

**Dassault Aviation and Thales complete delivery  
of France's Rafale C137, the first European combat aircraft  
equipped with an active phased array radar**

**Saint-Cloud – Neuilly, 02 October 2012** – The DGA (French defence procurement agency) has officially taken delivery of the Rafale C137, the first production Rafale equipped with the Thales RBE2 AESA\* radar, at Dassault Aviation's Mérignac establishment near Bordeaux.

The Rafale is the first European combat aircraft in operational service equipped with this type of radar.

The RBE2 AESA brings the Rafale a number of key operational benefits:

- extended range capabilities supporting low-observable target detection and full use of new weapon systems such as the Meteor air-to-air missile;
- higher reliability for reduced maintenance and lower through-life support costs;
- greater waveform agility for SAR (Synthetic Aperture Radar) imaging and improved resistance to jamming.

Dassault Aviation and Thales are proud to equip French forces with this advanced radar technology, which is now entering operational service on a European combat aircraft for the first time. The project was completed on time and on budget, and owes its success to exemplary cooperation with the DGA and all the companies involved in the RBE2 AESA programme.

Export versions of the Rafale also incorporate AESA radar technology.

\*Active Electronically Scanned Array

---

***About Thales***

Thales is a global technology leader for the Defence & Security and the Aerospace & Transport markets. In 2011, the company generated revenues of €13 billion with 67,000 employees in 56 countries. With its 22,500 engineers and researchers, Thales has a unique capability to design, develop and deploy equipment, systems and services that meet the most complex security requirements. Thales has an exceptional international footprint, with operations around the world working with customers and local partners.

Press contact

**Thales, Media Relations****Defence Aerospace**

Emmanuelle Le Fol

Tel: +33 (0)1 57 77 91 71

[emmanuelle.lefol@thalesgroup.com](mailto:emmanuelle.lefol@thalesgroup.com)

***About Dassault Aviation***

In the past sixty years Dassault Aviation has delivered more than 7500 civil and military aircraft to 75 countries logging some 20 million flight hours to date and is one of the few aerospace manufacturers mastering the technologies of the complete range of combat aircraft, such as the Rafale while being a world leader in the field of business jets, with the Falcon family.

This unique worldwide experience has allowed Dassault Aviation to build up considerable expertise in the design, development, production, sale and support of all types of aircraft and a recognized and demonstrated know-how, innovative operational solutions as well as a pragmatic and dynamic approach to cooperation.

Press contact

**Dassault Aviation, corporate communication**

Mathieu Durand

Tel: +33 (0)1 47 11 85 88

[Mathieu.durand@dassault-aviation.com](mailto:Mathieu.durand@dassault-aviation.com)

---