MDC advocates more Stovl

SANTA CLARA

Stovl (short take-off, vertical landing) has achieved equal industry status with Ctol (conventional take-off and landing) aircraft, says Robert Hood, vice-president of Aerospace Business Development for McDonnell Douglas. Whether it lives up to its potential, however, depends on how vigorous its supporters are in winning over doubters.

"Technology without a market is only an ingenious solution to a non-existent problem," said Hood, speaking at a conference in California.

Hood challenges the Stovl community to go out and "sell Stovl's unique advantages in solving problems and meeting commercial and military needs".

Potential defence markets include small but very damaging conflicts where Hood anticipates, in places like the Persian Gulf, "air power is desperately needed quickly but where there are no airfields or aircraft carriers. That's where Stovl aircraft such as the Harrier II could be well-used," he points out.

"We could solve the Persian Gulf situation quickly if we could maintain air superiority over the international waters there. But a carrier is too big a target for so small a space, and the political situation precludes having a dependable airfield."

Hood urges that planning agendas for both military and commercial Stovl operations must include issues of dedicated airport runways and support facilities; lower seat-mile costs; and better operational reliability, maintainability, and repairability.

Egypt buys improved Chaparral

CAIRO

An improved version of the Chaparral mobile surface-to-air missile system has been purchased recently by Egypt to enhance the capability of its air defence units.

The improved MIM-72C missiles, with a better guidance system and a more efficient proximity fuze, will perform the role of forward area low altitude defence for Egyptian army units which were trained in the USA.

In the past the Egyptian armed forces used the US-made Improved Hawk and the Russian-made SA-2 Guideline, SA-3 Goa, and SA-6 Gainful as the main air defence systems.

Rafale completes evaluation

PARIS

A new operational evaluation of the Dassault-Breguet Rafale has been made jointly by French Air Force and Navy pilots and engineers, together with the Government Test Centre. Test flights have concentrated on assessing the Rafale's radar cross-section and its infrared signature. A series of 13 flights evaluated the aircraft in combat conditions with two Matra Magic II air-to-air missiles, and in low-level flight with two 2,000-litre droptanks.

The French Navy has also been conducting simulated carrier-type approaches. The Service hopes that a naval version of the prototype fighter may eventually be produced.

RN opts for conversion

The Royal Navy's new aviation training ship, the RFA Argus, doubles as an auxiliary aircraft carrier. The RFA Argus has been converted from the MV Contender Bezzant, a roll-on/roll-off container vessel which saw service in the Falklands War. The Belfast yard of Harland and Wolff carried out the conversion over three and a half years. Normally, the ship will train the crews of Westland Sea King, Lynx, and EH.101 helicopters. However, the RFA Argus could alternatively embark six Sea Kings and 12 BAe Sea Harrier aircraft. Although conversion involved the removal of one funnel, the original stern ramp has been retained to assist in amphibious operations.

Egypt buys improved Chaparral

CAIRO

An improved version of the Chaparral mobile surface-to-air missile system has been purchased recently by Egypt to enhance the capability of its air defence units.

The improved MIM-72C missiles, with a better guidance system and a more efficient proximity fuze, will perform the role of forward area low altitude defence for Egyptian army units which were trained in the USA.

In the past the Egyptian armed forces used the US-made Improved Hawk and the Russian-made SA-2 Guideline, SA-3 Goa, and SA-6 Gainful as the main air defence systems.

Rafale completes evaluation

PARIS

A new operational evaluation of the Dassault-Breguet Rafale has been made jointly by French Air Force and Navy pilots and engineers, together with the Government Test Centre. Test flights have concentrated on assessing the Rafale's radar cross-section and its infrared signature. A series of 13 flights evaluated the aircraft in combat conditions with two Matra Magic II air-to-air missiles, and in low-level flight with two 2,000-litre droptanks.

The French Navy has also been conducting simulated carrier-type approaches. The Service hopes that a naval version of the prototype fighter may eventually be produced.

RN opts for conversion

The Royal Navy's new aviation training ship, the RFA Argus, doubles as an auxiliary aircraft carrier. The RFA Argus has been converted from the MV Contender Bezzant, a roll-on/roll-off container vessel which saw service in the Falklands War. The Belfast yard of Harland and Wolff carried out the conversion over three and a half years. Normally, the ship will train the crews of Westland Sea King, Lynx, and EH.101 helicopters. However, the RFA Argus could alternatively embark six Sea Kings and 12 BAe Sea Harrier aircraft. Although conversion involved the removal of one funnel, the original stern ramp has been retained to assist in amphibious operations.

Egypt buys improved Chaparral

CAIRO

An improved version of the Chaparral mobile surface-to-air missile system has been purchased recently by Egypt to enhance the capability of its air defence units.

The improved MIM-72C missiles, with a better guidance system and a more efficient proximity fuze, will perform the role of forward area low altitude defence for Egyptian army units which were trained in the USA.

In the past the Egyptian armed forces used the US-made Improved Hawk and the Russian-made SA-2 Guideline, SA-3 Goa, and SA-6 Gainful as the main air defence systems.

Rafale completes evaluation

PARIS

A new operational evaluation of the Dassault-Breguet Rafale has been made jointly by French Air Force and Navy pilots and engineers, together with the Government Test Centre. Test flights have concentrated on assessing the Rafale's radar cross-section and its infrared signature. A series of 13 flights evaluated the aircraft in combat conditions with two Matra Magic II air-to-air missiles, and in low-level flight with two 2,000-litre droptanks.

The French Navy has also been conducting simulated carrier-type approaches. The Service hopes that a naval version of the prototype fighter may eventually be produced.

RN opts for conversion

The Royal Navy's new aviation training ship, the RFA Argus, doubles as an auxiliary aircraft carrier. The RFA Argus has been converted from the MV Contender Bezzant, a roll-on/roll-off container vessel which saw service in the Falklands War. The Belfast yard of Harland and Wolff carried out the conversion over three and a half years. Normally, the ship will train the crews of Westland Sea King, Lynx, and EH.101 helicopters. However, the RFA Argus could alternatively embark six Sea Kings and 12 BAe Sea Harrier aircraft. Although conversion involved the removal of one funnel, the original stern ramp has been retained to assist in amphibious operations.

Egypt buys improved Chaparral

CAIRO

An improved version of the Chaparral mobile surface-to-air missile system has been purchased recently by Egypt to enhance the capability of its air defence units.

The improved MIM-72C missiles, with a better guidance system and a more efficient proximity fuze, will perform the role of forward area low altitude defence for Egyptian army units which were trained in the USA.

In the past the Egyptian armed forces used the US-made Improved Hawk and the Russian-made SA-2 Guideline, SA-3 Goa, and SA-6 Gainful as the main air defence systems.

Rafale completes evaluation

PARIS

A new operational evaluation of the Dassault-Breguet Rafale has been made jointly by French Air Force and Navy pilots and engineers, together with the Government Test Centre. Test flights have concentrated on assessing the Rafale's radar cross-section and its infrared signature. A series of 13 flights evaluated the aircraft in combat conditions with two Matra Magic II air-to-air missiles, and in low-level flight with two 2,000-litre droptanks.

The French Navy has also been conducting simulated carrier-type approaches. The Service hopes that a naval version of the prototype fighter may eventually be produced.

RN opts for conversion

The Royal Navy's new aviation training ship, the RFA Argus, doubles as an auxiliary aircraft carrier. The RFA Argus has been converted from the MV Contender Bezzant, a roll-on/roll-off container vessel which saw service in the Falklands War. The Belfast yard of Harland and Wolff carried out the conversion over three and a half years. Normally, the ship will train the crews of Westland Sea King, Lynx, and EH.101 helicopters. However, the RFA Argus could alternatively embark six Sea Kings and 12 BAe Sea Harrier aircraft. Although conversion involved the removal of one funnel, the original stern ramp has been retained to assist in amphibious operations.

Egypt buys improved Chaparral

CAIRO

An improved version of the Chaparral mobile surface-to-air missile system has been purchased recently by Egypt to enhance the capability of its air defence units.

The improved MIM-72C missiles, with a better guidance system and a more efficient proximity fuze, will perform the role of forward area low altitude defence for Egyptian army units which were trained in the USA.

In the past the Egyptian armed forces used the US-made Improved Hawk and the Russian-made SA-2 Guideline, SA-3 Goa, and SA-6 Gainful as the main air defence systems.

Rafale completes evaluation

PARIS

A new operational evaluation of the Dassault-Breguet Rafale has been made jointly by French Air Force and Navy pilots and engineers, together with the Government Test Centre. Test flights have concentrated on assessing the Rafale's radar cross-section and its infrared signature. A series of 13 flights evaluated the aircraft in combat conditions with two Matra Magic II air-to-air missiles, and in low-level flight with two 2,000-litre droptanks.

The French Navy has also been conducting simulated carrier-type approaches. The Service hopes that a naval version of the prototype fighter may eventually be produced.

RN opts for conversion

The Royal Navy's new aviation training ship, the RFA Argus, doubles as an auxiliary aircraft carrier. The RFA Argus has been converted from the MV Contender Bezzant, a roll-on/roll-off container vessel which saw service in the Falklands War. The Belfast yard of Harland and Wolff carried out the conversion over three and a half years. Normally, the ship will train the crews of Westland Sea King, Lynx, and EH.101 helicopters. However, the RFA Argus could alternatively embark six Sea Kings and 12 BAe Sea Harrier aircraft. Although conversion involved the removal of one funnel, the original stern ramp has been retained to assist in amphibious operations.