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PRESS RELEASE

# UK Royal Air Force gives green light to Leonardo's high-tech missile decoy for air combat missions

- **Leonardo has been contracted by the RAF to supply its 'BriteCloud' countermeasure to provide enhanced protection from advanced radar-guided missiles for its Tornado GR4 aircraft. The technology has now been given the go-ahead for operational service**

- **Made in Luton, UK, BriteCloud is the only such technology in the world which has been proven to work successfully in trials. Leonardo is Europe's leader in airborne electronic warfare, with more systems in service than any other provider**

- **The development of BriteCloud is in line with Leonardo's industrial plan, which sees the company making targeted investments in core technologies to support growth**

**Rome, 28 March 2018** – Leonardo has begun deliveries of its new 'BriteCloud' decoy to the UK's Royal Air Force for combat missions following the Ministry of Defence's formal go-ahead for the new technology. The drinks-can-sized countermeasure, which protects fighter jets from modern radar-guided missiles, will be available for use by Tornado GR4 crews in the near future The RAF will be the first air force in the world to field this new protective technology.

The acceptance into service follows a series of tests carried out by the RAF in the United States in June 2017. These live firings saw dozens of BriteCloud decoys launched from Tornado GR4 aircraft by the RAF's 41 Test and Evaluation Squadron against high-tech radar guidance systems. The tests produced a string of successful results which were then handed over for in-depth analysis by Ministry of Defence scientists at the UK's Air Warfare Centre and the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (DSTL).

Leonardo has worked since 2012 with the UK MOD to develop active expendable decoy technology, with the concept originating through a project commissioned by DSTL and jointly managed by Leonardo and the MOD's Defence Equipment and Support (DE&S) organisation. Leonardo has subsequently invested significantly in its Luton-based electronic warfare centre to develop and manufacture the final BriteCloud product.

In late 2017 the Ministry of Defence approved the technology for operations and first deliveries of the decoys by Leonardo to the RAF will take place this month. The speed at which BriteCloud has been taken from the drawing-board into operational service is a product of Leonardo's close partnership with the RAF's Rapid Capabilities Office, which was established to get new technologies into the hands of warfighters more quickly.

BriteCloud packs a sophisticated electronic radar jamming system into a package just a few inches long. The decoy can fit into a fighter aircraft's standard chaff and flare dispenser and can be ejected at the push of a button if the aircraft is locked onto by a modern radar guided missile. Upon launch, BriteCloud instantly powers up and its automatic jammer produces a 'ghost' signal to defeat an enemy's radar, making it straightforward to use and able to protect its host aircraft even

in situations where traditional chaff and flare countermeasures would be ineffective. The technology is generically called an ‘Active Expendable Decoy’ (EAD); ‘active’ because of the electronic jammer and ‘expendable’ because the decoy is fired away from the combat jet to create a large ‘miss distance’ for an incoming missile.