



LEONARDO INTRODUCES NEW M-40 TARGET DRONE AT PARIS AIR SHOW

News / Events / Festivals, Manufacturer



- The M-40 provides medium-to-high performance at a cost comparable with entry-level competing target drones
- Leonardo's Mirach-family drones are the standard threat simulators of Armed Forces around the world including France, Italy and the UK
- A number of design enhancements, such as the removal of all pyrotechnics, mean that the M-40 is readily exportable and benefits from low through-life-costs

Clouds1 ? type unknown

Leonardo introduces its **new aerial target drone** to the market at the **2017 Paris Air Show**. Based on the company's experience with its successful '[Mirach 100/5](#)' target drone which has earned a place as the standard threat simulator of international Armed Forces including France, Italy and the UK, the new '[Mirach 40](#)' (M-40) is designed to provide medium-to-high performance at a price comparable with competitors' entry-level drones.

The **M-40** is a remotely-piloted aerial system (RPAS) that supports Armed Forces training by simulating a range of airborne threat targets. Able to convincingly mimic a variety of aircraft and missiles, the target drone can simulate radar, infrared (IR) and visual threats. This allows Armed Forces to 'shoot down' the reusable **M-40** in realistic scenarios, allowing them to train with and qualify a wide variety of weapon systems. Developed in-house by **Leonardo** using commercial

components, the **M-40** is readily exportable around the world.

Responding to the fact that customers worldwide increasingly need to 'do more with less', the **M-40** builds on **Leonardo's** experience with the **Mirach 100/5** to offer a majority of the performance of such a model at a significantly reduced cost. The **M-40** is suitable for a range of training purposes, from Ground Based Air Defence (GBAD) artillery training to the simulation of high-performance aerial threats for Navy and Air Force training. **Leonardo** will also continue to offer the **Mirach 100/5** alongside the **M-40** to simulate the highest-performance threats facing modern Air Forces. The **M-40** uses the same ground control station as the **Mirach 100/5**, meaning that pilots need very little training to switch to the new drone and armed forces can operate mixed fleets of **M-40** and **Mirach 100/5** drones.

Because the new **M-40** inherits the flight characteristics of the proven **Mirach 100/5**, it comes with a **versatile range of high-performance features** including a low-altitude 'sea skimming' capability and the ability to execute high-G maneuvers, both uncommon in comparatively-priced competing systems. The refined aerodynamics of the **M-40** also allows it to exceed the speed of most twin-engine systems, despite employing a single commercial, multi-fuel engine. The use of a single engine also reduces maintenance requirements and allows for easier deployment even at very remote training ranges. To ensure that **M-40** is easy to store and transport, it is designed to operate without pyrotechnics, even for launch and parachute deployment.

18 JUNE 2017

ARTICLE LINK:

<https://50skyshades.com/index.php/news/events-festivals/leonardo-introduces-new-m-40-target-drone-at-paris-air-show>