Lockheed Martin's Guided MLRS Rocket Successful In Second Ballistic Test At White Sands

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The U.S. Army and Lockheed Martin Missiles and Fire Control successfully tested the new Guided version of the Multiple Launch Rocket System (MLRS) rocket at White Sands Missile Range, N.M. Conducted on June 27, this was the second successful ballistic flight test of the Guided MLRS rocket.

The missile was launched from an MLRS M270 launcher. Major test objectives included the successful launch of the missile from the canister, nominal motor performance, tail fin deployment and rotation, and telemetry performance. Preliminary data indicate all test objectives were successfully achieved.

"We are continuing to prove out the Guided MLRS rocket's systems," said Ron Abbott, vice president - Fire Support for Missiles and Fire Control. "We evaluated several facets of the rocket performance during this test, such as determining the spin rate of the tail fin assembly as the rocket exited the tube, and a few items relating to launch and motor performance. The Guided MLRS rocket has met or exceeded all of our expectations during these first two flight tests, putting the program in an excellent position for the first guided flight this fall."

The Guided MLRS rocket program is an international cooperative program between the U.S., U.K., Italy, France and Germany.

The Guided MLRS rocket incorporates global positioning system (GPS)-aided inertial guidance package integrated on a product-improved rocket body. Additionally, small canards on the Guided rocket nose will provide basic maneuverability and enhance the accuracy of the system. Guided MLRS initial operational capability is scheduled for FY'04.

Guided MLRS is the next major step in the evolution of the MLRS Family of Munitions, offering advanced capabilities, reduced logistics support and precision attack. The rocket will have a range of approximately 60 kilometers.

Located in Dallas, Orlando, Florida, and Sunnyvale, Calif., Lockheed Martin Missiles and Fire Control develops, manufactures and supports advanced combat, missile, rocket and space systems. The company is organized in seven program/mission areas: Strike Weapons, Air Defense, Anti-Armor, Naval Munitions, Fire Control and Sensors, Fire Support and Product Development.

Headquartered in Bethesda, Maryland, Lockheed Martinis a global enterprise principally engaged in the research, design, development, manufacture and integration of advanced-technology systems, products and services. The Corporation's core businesses are systems integration, space, aeronautics, and technology services.

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