Lockheed Martin's Guided MLRS Rocket Successful In Third GPS-Aided Flight Test At White Sands Missile Range

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Lockheed Martin Missiles and Fire Control and the U.S. Army again successfully tested the new Guided version of the Multiple Launch Rocket System (MLRS) rocket at White Sands Missile Range, N.M. In this test, a Guided MLRS rocket, using Global Positioning System- (GPS) aided guidance, performed nominally.

The rocket was launched from an MLRS M270 Improved Position Determining System launcher, flew more than 70 kilometers to the target area and dispensed its submunition payloads. Major test objectives included the successful launch of the rocket from the launcher, nominal motor performance, tail fin deployment and spin rate evaluation, and navigation performance. Preliminary data indicate that all test objectives were successfully achieved.

This was the final engineering and development test in a series of six. The EDT tests continue to meet or exceed all performance requirements.

"As we complete the EDT phase, we couldn't be more pleased in the performance of the Guided rocket," said Ron Abbott, vice president - Fire Support for Lockheed Martin Missiles and Fire Control. "This rocket's accuracy and reliability are continuing to exceed our expectations. I believe that the Guided MLRS rocket will be a tremendous asset for the battlefield commander."

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 a 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 CY '05.

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.

Lockheed Martin Missiles and Fire Control develops, manufactures and integrates world-class air defense, fire support, strike weapon, naval munition, combat vision, anti-armor and advanced product solutions and systems for U.S. and international armed forces. Headquartered in Bethesda, Md., Lockheed Martin is a global enterprise principally engaged in the research, design, development, manufacture and integration of advanced technology systems products and services.

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