Modernized GPS Built By Lockheed Martin Ready For Launch From Cape Canaveral

The fourth modernized Global Positioning System (GPS) Block IIR satellite built by Lockheed Martinfor the U.S. Air Force is set for launch aboard a Delta II rocket on Oct. 17, from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, Fla.

The GPS constellation provides critical situational awareness and precision weapon guidance for the military. The worldwide system also supports a wide range of civil, scientific and commercial functions -- from air traffic control to the Internet -- with precision location and timing information.

"We take great pride in our partnership with the Air Force on this vitally important system," said Don DeGryse, Lockheed Martin's vice president of Navigation Systems, and we look forward to extending our excellent record of delivering advanced navigation capabilities that better serve our warfighters and civil users around the globe."

Lockheed Martin Navigation Systems, Valley Forge, Pa. prime contractor for the GPS IIR program and navigation payload provider ITT of Clifton, N.J. designed and built 21 IIR spacecraft for the Global Positioning Systems Wing, Space and Missile Systems Center, Los Angeles Air Force Base, Calif.

The final eight spacecraft, designated Block IIR-M, were modernized to enhance operations and navigation signal performance for military and civilian GPS users around the globe. Lockheed Martin is also responsible for launch and flight operations support of the GPS IIR and IIR-M satellites.

The Global Positioning System enables properly equipped users to determine precise time and velocity and worldwide latitude, longitude and altitude to within a few meters. Air Force Space Command's 2nd Space Operations Squadron (2SOPS), based at Schriever Air Force Base, Colo., manages and operates the GPS constellation for both civil and military users.

Headquartered in Bethesda, Md., Lockheed Martin employs about 140,000 people worldwide and is principally engaged in the research, design, development, manufacture, integration and sustainment of advanced technology systems, products and services. The corporation reported 2006 sales of $39.6 billion.

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Low- and high-resolution JPEG image files of a GPS IIR-M satellite are available at:
http://www.lockheedmartin.com/GPS

First Call Analyst:
FCMN Contact:

SOURCE: Lockheed Martin

Web site: http://www.lockheedmartin.com/

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