Lockheed Martin Receives $10 Million To Migrate MH-60 Helicopters To The Joint Mission Planning System

OWEGO, N.Y., Sept. 21 /PRNewswire/ -- The U.S. Navy awarded Lockheed Martin (NYSE: LMT) a $10 million contract to develop software that will enable MH-60R and MH-60S multi-mission helicopter aircrews the latest technology to pre-plan their missions for maximum success.

The U.S. military's Joint Mission Planning System (JMPS) was developed by the U.S. Navy and Air Force based on a commercial-off-the-shelf architecture that standardizes how aircrews file their mission flight plans. JMPS will replace other legacy mission planning systems.

Lockheed Martin will develop a software module configured to JMPS containing the newest mission characteristics unique to MH-60R and MH-60S multi-mission helicopters. Those missions include anti-submarine warfare, anti-surface warfare, airborne mine countermeasures, search and rescue and ship-to-ship cargo resupply.

"The MH-60 module will give Navy SEAHAWK® pilots access to the military's most advanced mission planning tool, allowing pilots to easily capture and load pre-planned data in a format compatible between both helicopter types," said George Barton, director of Lockheed Martin naval helicopter programs. "Once airborne, the aircraft's avionics will know what mission to prosecute, the intended route and navigation waypoints to use, the communications frequencies, weapons and, sensors it will employ, as well as other critical information."

The software modules will be loaded onto a planning system laptop that allows MH-60 pilots to select preconfigured mission plans, compile weather data, maps, navigational routes, targeting data and the types of weapons and sensors their aircraft will use for a mission. The finished mission profile is transferred to a memory card and uploaded to Lockheed Martin's Common Cockpit™ avionics suite — the digital cockpit aboard both helicopter models.

During the next 30 months, Lockheed Martin will develop and test software for the MH-60 module, also known as a unique planning component, in Owego, N.Y. Subsequent tests will be conducted at Naval Air Weapons Station, Point Mugu, Calif., and the Naval Air Station, Patuxent River, Md. JMPS-based mission planning computers with the MH-60 unique planning component will be available for deployment in 2012.

MH-60 SEAHAWK multi-mission helicopters are designed and manufactured by Sikorsky Aircraft Corporation. Lockheed Martin provides the digital cockpit for all MH-60 helicopters, and is the prime systems integrator for the MH-60R. The Navy plans to buy 300 MH-60R and 275 MH-60S aircraft.

Headquartered in Bethesda, Md., Lockheed Martin is a global security company that employs about 136,000 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 2009 sales of $44.5billion.

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