Lockheed Martin Receives $139 Million Contract For High Mobility Artillery Rocket System

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DALLAS, Jan. 31, 2011 /PRNewswire/ -- Lockheed Martin (NYSE: LMT) has received a $139.6 million contract to provide 44 combat-proven High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems (HIMARS) to the U.S. Army. This order will increase the Army's HIMARS launcher fleet to 375, with deliveries continuing through January 2013. Work on the contract will be performed at the company's facilities in Camden, AR, and Grand Prairie, TX.

"HIMARS brings soldiers an agile, responsive and accurate delivery system of extremely precise fires," said Col. David J. Rice, U.S. Army program manager for Precision Fires, Rocket and Missile Systems. "HIMARS continues to impress everybody with its performance and versatility, the system is reliable, robust and exceptionally effective in theater."

The system can accommodate a six-pack of Guided MLRS rockets or one Army Tactical Missile System missile. HIMARS, a highly mobile artillery rocket system based on the Army's FMTV five-ton truck, is designed to launch the entire MLRS Family of Munitions.

"Half of the more than 1,900 Guided Multiple Launch Rocket System (MLRS) rockets expended by the U.S. Army and Marine Corps in Iraq and Afghanistan have been fired from HIMARS," said Scott Arnold, vice president for Precision Fires at Lockheed Martin Missiles and Fire Control. "HIMARS has proven itself to soldiers to be highly reliable and relevant in today's battlefield, and its operational readiness rate continues to exceed requirements, a testament to the quality of the system."

HIMARS is designed to enable troops to engage and defeat artillery, air defense concentrations, trucks, light armor and personnel carriers, as well as support troop and supply concentrations, HIMARS can move away from the area at high speed following missile launch, well before enemy forces are able to locate the launch site. The U.S. Army and Marines operate HIMARS, as do several international allies.

Because of its C-130 transportability, HIMARS can be deployed into areas previously inaccessible to heavier launchers and provides a force multiplier to the modular brigade. It also incorporates the self-loading, autonomous features that have made MLRS the premier rocket artillery system in the world. The HIMARS fire control system, electronics and communications units are interchangeable with the existing MLRS M270A1 launcher, and the crew and training are the same. HIMARS is a crucial component in today's military theaters of operation.

Headquartered in Bethesda, Md., Lockheed Martin is a global security company that employs about 132,000 people worldwide and is principally engaged in the research, design, development, manufacture, integration and sustainment of advanced technology systems, products and services. The Corporation's 2010 sales from continuing operations were $45.8 billion.

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