Lockheed Martin's EAPS Completes Successful Series Of Target Tracking Tests

DALLAS, May 15, 2012 /PRNewswire/ -- Lockheed Martin [NYSE: LMT] successfully conducted a series of target tracking tests against Rocket, Artillery and Mortar (RAM) targets using its Extended Area Protection and Survivability (EAPS) miniature hit-to-kill interceptor system.

The tests were conducted during the first week of April at White Sands Missile Range, N.M., in collaboration with the U.S. Army Research Development & Engineering Command/Aviation Missile Research Development & Engineering Center (RDECOM/AMRDEC). The tests demonstrated EAPS can track targets launched from tactical ranges for the duration of their trajectory.

"We are all extremely pleased with this test, what it means for the EAPS program. The data collected is being analyzed so that the program learns as much as possible and we can incorporate improvements and changes where needed," said Loretta Painter, AMRDEC EAPS program director.

During the tests, the EAPS fire control sensors provided target track information sufficient to conduct a full target engagement sequence, including the issuance of a launch command followed by a simulated EAPS missile fly-out and simulated intercept. This test series supports the upcoming EAPS Integrated Demonstration flight tests, consisting of a non-targeted test flight in the May timeframe followed by a several guided flights against tactical targets in the summer of 2012.

"As we continue to develop EAPS, we are confident this system will play a crucial role in the future protection of the force," said Mike Trotsky at Lockheed Martin's Missiles and Fire Control business.

The Lockheed Martin EAPS round is an extremely agile, small hit-to-kill interceptor that weighs approximately 3 kilograms. It is less than 50 millimeters in diameter and less than 1 meter long. The interceptor is designed to be affordable and will meet the AMRDEC Average Unit Production Cost goal at specified quantities. Paired with a fire control sensor, EAPS defeats targets through body-to-body impact at tactical ranges.

Lockheed Martin's EAPS supports multiple launchers and fire control sensors. This capability greatly increases the protected operational environment, providing soldiers greater protection and increased flexibility over legacy and interim systems.

Headquartered in Bethesda, Md., Lockheed Martin is a global security and aerospace company that employs about 123,000 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 net sales for 2011 were $46.5 billion.

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