Lockheed Martin Completes Major GPS III Flight Software Milestone

NEWTOWN, Pa., Feb. 6, 2013 /PRNewswire/ -- The Lockheed Martin (NYSE: LMT) team developing the U.S. Air Force's next generation Global Position System III satellites has completed a key flight software milestone validating the software's ability to provide reliable and effective command and control for the GPS III satellites planned for launch into orbit.

The GPS III program will affordably replace aging GPS satellites, while improving capability to meet the evolving demands of military, commercial and civilian users. GPS III satellites will deliver better accuracy and improved anti-jamming power while enhancing the spacecraft's design life and adding a new civil signal designed to be interoperable with international global navigation satellite systems.

The milestone, known as Software Item Qualification Testing (SIQT), was completed for the satellite's spacecraft bus flight software, which is critical to controlling the spacecraft on orbit and monitoring the health and safety of the satellite's subsystems. SIQT included 131 individual test events and represented the culmination of a rigorous software engineering risk reduction and development phase. The software will next be integrated and tested on the first GPS III satellite, which is on schedule for launch availability in 2014.

"Completion of this flight software milestone demonstrates our continued positive program momentum and is another step forward in reducing risk up front to facilitate long term affordability," said Lt. Col. William 'Todd' Caldwell, the U.S. Air Force's GPS III program manager. "In this challenging budget environment, the entire government and industry team is focused on delivering the critical GPS III satellites affordably and efficiently for users worldwide."

To further reduce risk, the flight software has already been integrated and tested on the program's satellite prototype, known as the GPS III Non-Flight Satellite Testbed (GNST).

"Delivering fully qualified flight software this early in program development demonstrates the rigor of our GPS III software development processes," said Keoki Jackson, vice president of Lockheed Martin's Navigation Systems mission area. "Through up-front investments in high-fidelity, flight equivalent hardware and software testbeds, our team successfully executed on schedule to develop and qualify the flight software critical to the success of the GPS III program."

Lockheed Martin is on contract to deliver the first four GPS III satellites for launch. The Air Force plans to purchase up to 32 GPS III satellites.

The GPS III team is led by the Global Positioning Systems Directorate at the U.S. Air Force Space and Missile Systems Center. Lockheed Martin is the GPS III prime contractor with teammates ITT Exelis, General Dynamics, Infinity Systems Engineering, Honeywell, ATK and other subcontractors. 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 is a global security and aerospace company that employs about 120,000 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 2012 were $47.2 billion.

Video and images of GPS III can be found at:
http://www.lockheedmartin.com/gps

Media Contact:
Michael Friedman
303-971-7255
michael.1.friedman@lmco.com

SOURCE Lockheed Martin

https://news.lockheedmartin.com/2013-02-06-Lockheed-Martin-Completes-Major-GPS-III-Flight-Software-Milestone