Lockheed Martin Awarded A $103 Million Contract To Produce Automated Test Systems For U.S. Navy

ORLANDO, Fla., Jan. 13, 2014 /PRNewswire/ -- The U.S. Navy has awarded Lockheed Martin [NYSE: LMT] a contract for new automated test systems to increase aircraft mission readiness.

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(Photo: http://photos.prnewswire.com/prnh/20140113/NE45110-b)

The $103 million award authorizes two low rate initial production options for the first 36 electronic Consolidated Automated Support System (eCASS) stations and associated support equipment. Sailors and Marines will use eCASS to troubleshoot and repair aircraft assemblies at sea or ashore, allowing them to return equipment to readiness status quickly and efficiently.

"eCASS will be the workhorse for avionics repair across the Naval Aviation Enterprise," saidChris Giggey, deputy program manager for Automatic Test Systems, of the U.S. Navy's Naval Air Systems Command's Aviation Support Equipment Program Office (PMA-260). "This system provides us with capabilities critical to support of naval aircraft and gives us the ability to launch combat-ready aircraft from carriers anytime and anywhere in support of the nation."

eCASS will replace the currentCASS test equipment originally fielded in the early 1990s. CASS is the Navy's standard automatic test equipment family supporting electronics on naval aircraft.

"eCASS runs 20 percent faster, is even more reliable, and is highly compatible with legacy CASS stations," said Randy Core, director of Enterprise Test Solutions at Lockheed Martin Mission Systems and Training. "This speed and reliability will ultimately help the Navy increase aircraft availability."

The first eCASS station will be delivered inNovember 2014. eCASS will support all the aircraft in the Navy's fleet and is extendable to new weapons systems, including the F-35 Lightning II.

Headquartered in Bethesda, Md., Lockheed Martin is a global security and aerospace company that employs about 116,000 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.

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