

Fourth AEHF Protected Communications Satellite Begins Integration Months Ahead Of Schedule

PR Newswire
SUNNYVALE, Calif.

SUNNYVALE, Calif., April 8, 2014 /PRNewswire/ -- The fourth [Advanced Extremely High Frequency](#) (AEHF) satellite produced by Lockheed Martin [NYSE: LMT] is taking shape after early deliveries of its payload and propulsion core. AEHF-4, expected to launch in 2017, will enable the constellation to reach full operational capability.

The propulsion core manufactured by Lockheed Martin and payload produced by Northrop Grumman arrived at the AEHF integration facility in Sunnyvale, Calif., earlier in the year. Both were delivered significantly ahead of baseline schedule. The propulsion core arrived eight months early, and the payload arrived two months early.

"We're driving a shorter timeline for bigger cost savings. In fact, we are putting plans in place to finish six months ahead of our baseline schedule," said Mark Calassa, vice president of Protected Communication Systems at Lockheed Martin. "AEHF's propulsion system reflects Lockheed Martin's investment in more efficient spacecraft. To complement its traditional chemical propulsion, AEHF uses the highest power electric propulsion system ever flown for orbit raising and station keeping."

Lockheed Martin is under contract to deliver six AEHF satellites and the mission control segment. Users are testing [AEHF-1](#), [AEHF-2](#) and [AEHF-3](#) on orbit, and the fourth satellite will enable the system to reach full operational capability. The fifth and sixth satellites will add to the capacity of the operational system and are being assembled at Lockheed Martin.

AEHF is the most secure communications satellite system used by the U.S. government. Its jam-resistant communications are resilient against enemy forces, including nuclear attack, and a single AEHF satellite provides greater capacity than its compatible legacy five-satellite [Milstar](#) system. AEHF's five-fold increase in data rates speed up protected communications, such as real-time video, battlefield maps and targeting data. The constellation serves troops and national leaders, including the president and Pentagon officials.

Headquartered in Bethesda, Md., Lockheed Martin is a global security and aerospace company that employs approximately 115,000 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 2013 were \$45.4 billion.

Note to Editors:

AEHF video and high-resolution photos are available at www.lockheedmartin.com/aehf

Media Contacts:

Mark Lewis
Office: 408-742-3516
Mobile: 408-203-8093
mark.e.lewis@lmco.com

Chip Eschenfelder
Office: 303-977-8375
Mobile: 315-427-5720
chip.eschenfelder@lmco.com

SOURCE Lockheed Martin

<https://news.lockheedmartin.com/2014-04-08-Fourth-AEHF-Protected-Communications-Satellite-Begins-Integration-Months-Ahead-Of-Schedule>