

Lockheed Martin-Built MUOS-3 Secure Communications Satellite Encapsulated In Launch Vehicle Fairing

Satellite Team Ready for January 20 Launch

PR Newswire

CAPE CANAVERAL AIR FORCE STATION, Fla.

CAPE CANAVERAL AIR FORCE STATION, Fla., Dec. 19, 2014 /PRNewswire/ -- The third Mobile User Objective System ([MUOS](#)) satellite built by Lockheed Martin [NYSE: LMT] for the U.S. Navy was encapsulated into its payload fairing Dec. 18. It is scheduled to launch Jan. 20 aboard a United Launch Alliance [Atlas V](#) rocket.

[Download photos from the encapsulation [here](#).]

MUOS operates like a smart phone network in the sky, vastly improving current secure mobile satellite communications for warfighters on the move. Unlike previous systems, MUOS provides users an on-demand, beyond-line-of-sight capability to transmit and receive high-quality, prioritized voice and mission data, on a high-speed Internet Protocol-based system.

"MUOS is a game changer in communications for our warfighters and will allow them to have high-fidelity voice conversations, networked team calls and data exchange, including video, with anyone connected to a secure terminal around the world," said Iris Bombelyn, vice president of Narrowband Communications at Lockheed Martin. "The launch of MUOS-3 will increase our network coverage to about three-quarters of the globe."

Replacing the legacy Ultra High Frequency (UHF) Follow-On system, MUOS satellites have two payloads to ensure UHF narrowband communications accessibility and new capabilities. MUOS' advanced Wideband Code Division Access (WCDMA) payload incorporates commercial technology and a new waveform to provide users priority-based capacity. Once fully operational, MUOS will provide comparatively 16 times the capacity of the legacy system. More than 50,000 terminals in the field today can be retro-fitted with WCDMA.

MUOS is expected to provide warfighters global coverage before the end of 2015. [MUOS-1](#) and [MUOS-2](#), launched respectively in 2012 and 2013, are already operational and providing high-quality voice communications. [MUOS-4](#) is on track to launch later in the year. The fourth and final required MUOS ground station also is expected to be operational early next year.

[Lockheed Martin Space Systems](#), Sunnyvale, California, is the MUOS prime contractor and system integrator. The [Navy's Program Executive Office for Space Systems](#) and its Communications Satellite Program Office, San Diego, California, are responsible for the MUOS program.

Headquartered in Bethesda, Maryland, Lockheed Martin is a global security and aerospace company that employs approximately 113,000 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.

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