Lockheed Martin Awarded 500 KW Joint Laser Weapon System Contract

BETHESDA, Md., July 9, 2026 – The U.S. Department of War awarded Lockheed Martin (NYSE: LMT) a contract to advance the United States' next generation cruise missile and unmanned aerial system defense architecture. Under this Joint Laser Weapon System (JLWS) program, Lockheed Martin will develop a tactical containerized 500 kW laser weapon system, providing combatant commanders with scalable, cost-effective intercept solutions. The award acknowledges the company's collaboration with SCALED Directed Energy, one of the Department of War's six Critical Technology Areas under the Office of the Under Secretary of War for Research and Engineering (OUSW(R&E)).

EXECUTIVE PERSPECTIVES

"We are honored to field this operational-tactical prototype — the highest-power laser ever packaged in a transportable container," said Paul Lemmo, vice president and general manager of Lockheed Martin Sensors, Effectors, and Mission Systems. "By applying our expertise in lowering size, weight, and power along with rugged-system design, we can rapidly build containerized laser weapons in the near term."

"We must actively defend the homeland against emerging threats," said Emil Michael, Under Secretary of War for Research and Engineering. "We are partnering with industry to rapidly deliver deep magazine directed energy capabilities to the Joint Force that can be seamlessly deployed across multiple domains."

PROVEN TECHNOLOGY

This award builds on more than 15 years of Lockheed Martin investment and expertise in designing and fielding tactically relevant laser weapons. Compared with conventional kinetic systems, Lockheed Martin's lasers provide a decisive operational edge: speed-of-light engagement, virtually unlimited magazines, and a dramatically lower cost per intercept—capabilities essential for defeating high-volume UAS swarms and advanced cruise-missile threats.

Lockheed Martin continues to work closely with the Department of War and industry partners to accelerate fielding of directed energy capabilities to support the warfighter in the moments it matters most.

About Lockheed Martin

Lockheed Martin is a global defense technology company driving innovation and advancing scientific discovery. Our all-domain mission solutions and 21st Century Security® vision accelerate the delivery of transformative technologies to ensure those we serve always stay ahead of ready. More information at Lockheedmartin.com.

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