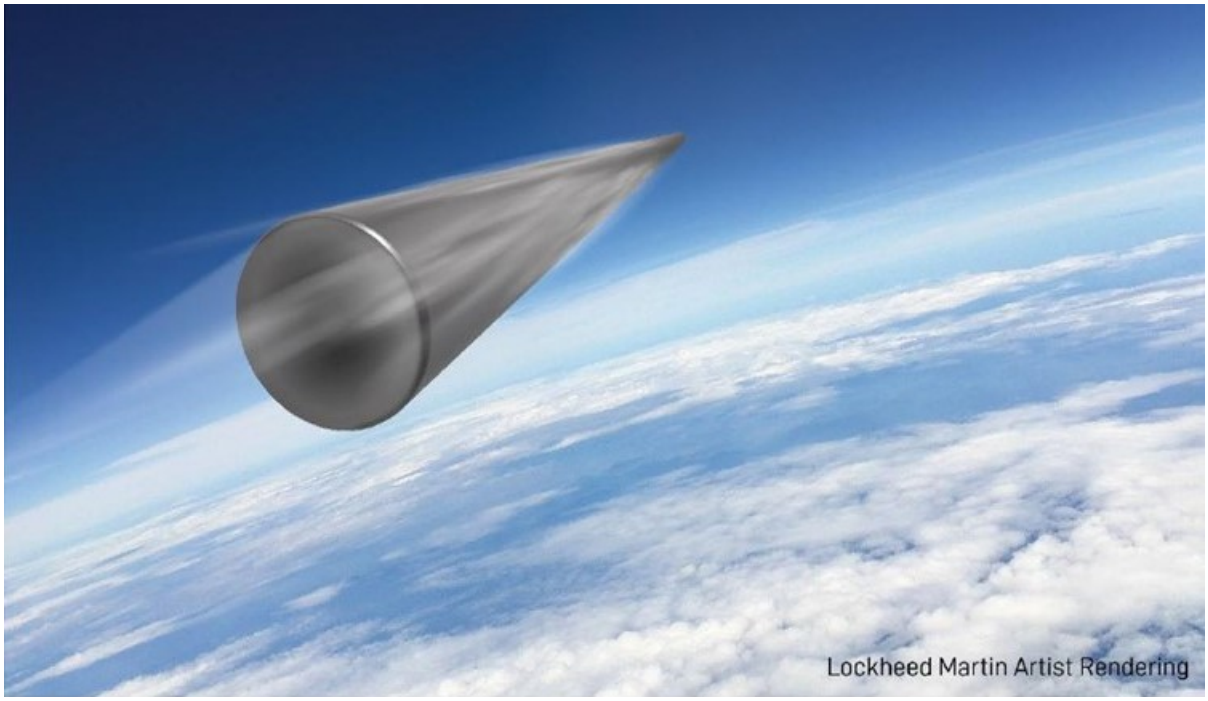
Lockheed Martin Completes Flight Test Of Future Intercontinental Ballistic Missile System Reentry Vehicle

Valley Forge, Pa.,



Lockheed Martin notional rendering of Mk21A in flight. (Credit: Lockheed Martin Artist Rendering)

November 4, 2026 – Lockheed Martin [NYSE: LMT] and the U.S. Air Force completed a test flight of its unarmed, developmental Mk21A reentry vehicle, launched over the Pacific Ocean from Vandenberg Space Force Base in California.

The Mk21A is the U.S. Air Force's next-generation integrated reentry vehicle, serving as the front-end payload for the nation's future intercontinental ballistic missile system (ICBM). Upgrading the legacy Mk21, it modernizes and strengthens the land-based leg of the strategic nuclear triad.

Driven by Digital Innovation

Executed under a prime military contract valued at over $1B, the flight demonstrated the maturity of the vehicle's architecture and validated next-generation reentry technologies.

To accelerate development, Lockheed Martin leveraged data from previous tests as well as digital engineering frameworks. These advanced tactics utilize high-fidelity modeling and simulation tools to compress program schedules, drive efficiencies, mitigate technical risks and ensure overall system performance.

Data harvested from the most recent flight test will directly inform ongoing design refinements and shape future testing as the program maintains steady momentum toward system-level Critical Design Review (CDR).

"Testing is a stringent requirement in modernized defense programs, but more importantly, it's the engine that drives maturity and reliability," Jason Watson, vice president of Strategic Reentry Programs for Lockheed Martin, said. "Building on flight data from our prior tests, we are directly translating real-world experience into program momentum, ensuring the Mk21A reentry vehicle delivers uncompromised performance for the Air Force."

Why It Matters

The flight test marks a critical step for national security, proving that industry can build reliable new delivery systems to outpace evolving adversary defenses. It also highlights Lockheed Martin's ability to move rapidly from digital design to operational flight, delivering vital capabilities on a faster timeline.

About Lockheed Martin

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