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Boeing [NYSE:BA] Space and Intelligence Systems and its Boeing Satellite Systems unit have been awarded the Software Engineering Institute's (SEI) Capability Maturity Model Integration (CMMI) Level 5 certification.

"Boeing Satellite Systems has achieved several major quality and process milestones -- each of which validated the engineering and production processes we have in place to meet or exceed the stringent cost, schedule and technical requirements demanded by our customers," said Roger Roberts, vice president of Boeing Space and Intelligence Systems. The unit has also received the International Standards Organization (ISO) 9001 certification, Society of Automotive Engineers, Aerospace Standards (AS) 9100 certification, and now CMMI Level 5.

"There are only a handful of organizations around the world that have accomplished these ratings and we are proud to be among them," Roberts said.

Only the top 25 percent of organizations examined for the CMMI ratings received Level 5 certification. Examination by an SEI authorized appraiser includes all four ratable CMMI areas: systems engineering, software engineering, integrated product and process development and supplier sourcing. Based on the audit results, the Boeing units achieved the highest level of certification offered through SEI, CMMI Level 5.

Developed by SEI in Pittsburgh, Pa., CMMI is a model for appraising and improving the performance of companies whose primary focus is the development of end products. It is deployed to limit risks associated with development projects, increase efficiency and improve the overall quality of products. Ratings are assigned from maturity level 1 -- initial maturity, through maturity level 5 -- organizations that have demonstrated optimized processes.

A unit of The Boeing Company, Boeing Integrated Defense Systems is one of the world's largest space and defense businesses. Headquartered in St. Louis, Boeing Integrated Defense Systems is a \$27 billion business. It provides network-centric system solutions to its global military, government, and commercial customers. It is a leading provider of intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance systems; the world's largest military aircraft manufacturer; the world's largest satellite manufacturer and a leading provider of space-based communications; the primary systems integrator for U.S. missile defense and Department of Homeland Security; NASA's largest contractor; and a global leader in launch services.

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