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Boeing will provide the carrier-based unmanned aerial refuelers to extend the range of deployed fighters

ST. LOUIS, Aug. 30, 2018 — Boeing [NYSE: BA] will build the U.S. Navy's first operational carrier-based unmanned aircraft, the MQ-25 aerial refueler, through an \$805 million contract awarded today.

Boeing was awarded the engineering and manufacturing development contract to provide four aircraft. Boeing plans to perform the MQ-25 work in St. Louis.

"As a company, we made an investment in both our team and in an unmanned aircraft system that meets the U.S. Navy's refueling requirements," said Leanne Caret, president and CEO, Boeing Defense, Space & Security. "The fact that we're already preparing for first flight is thanks to an outstanding team who understands the Navy and their need to have this important asset on carrier decks around the world."

MQ-25 is designed to provide the U.S. Navy with a much-needed refueling capability. According to the U.S. Navy, the MQ-25 Stingray will allow for better use of combat strike fighters by extending the range of deployed Boeing F/A-18 Super Hornet, Boeing EA-18G Growler, and Lockheed Martin F-35C aircraft. MQ-25 will also seamlessly integrate with a carrier's catapult and launch and recovery systems.

Boeing has been providing carrier aircraft to the U.S. Navy for more than 90 years.

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Contact:

Deborah VanNierop
Defense, Space & Security
Office: +1 314-232-1624
Mobile: +1 210-454-2656
deborah.a.vannierop@boeing.com

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