

Boeing Awarded Follow-on Contract for Advanced Targeting Forward Looking Infrared Systems

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Boeing [NYSE: BA] has received a follow-on contract from the U.S. Navy for the second low-rate initial production, or LRIP-2, of Advanced Targeting Forward Looking Infrared (ATFLIR) systems and spares. This contract, worth \$95 million, will include production of 24 ATFLIR pods for the F/A-18E/F and four ATFLIR pods and two pod adapters for the F/A-18C/D.

"This contract supports providing the F/A-18 Super Hornet and Hornet with the most advanced targeting FLIR capability available in the world," said Keith Smith, ATFLIR program manager.

The ATFLIR replaces an existing electro-optic sensor suite, combining separate navigation FLIR and targeting FLIR pods into one pod, freeing up one weapon station. The ATFLIR also includes a visible light camera or electro-optic sensor. The third-generation FLIR will provide the capability to detect, classify and track both air-to-air and air-to-surface targets. It supports the autonomous delivery of existing laser-guided weapons and emerging standoff weapons. The ATFLIR is in continuing development to deliver the capability to launch with both navigational FLIR and laser spot tracking, which is unavailable with current hardware.

Boeing awarded a contract for development of the ATFLIR to Raytheon, then Hughes Aircraft Co., in 1998. The program, potentially worth more than \$900 million over its life, is expected to produce 574 units. The first F/A-18E/F Super Hornet squadron to deploy in mid-2002 will have three refurbished engineering development model ATFLIR pods for squadron use as part of an early operational capability. The first production pods were delivered earlier this year; pods from LRIP-2 will start delivery in December 2003.

The Boeing Company is the world's largest manufacturer of satellites, commercial jetliners and military aircraft. In terms of sales, Boeing is the largest exporter in the United States. Total company revenues for 2001 were \$58 billion.

Boeing Military Aircraft and Missile Systems is the world's largest military aircraft manufacturer, and has delivered more than 130,000 military aircraft to the U.S. government and international customers. Among emerging businesses are unmanned systems, as well as military aircraft that are based on the company's renowned commercial airplanes.

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