Boeing Awarded High Energy Laser System Testbed Contract

Boeing [NYSE: BA] has been awarded a contract by the Air Force Research Laboratory, Kirtland Air Force Base, N.M., for a mobile testbed to enable development of beam control and fire control solutions for tactical high energy laser weapon systems.

The 48-month contract, valued at $23 million, will include ground and airborne demonstrations of integrated sensing and beam control techniques developed by Boeing Laser & Electro-Optical Systems to address targeting in clutter and laser energy propagation and aim-point maintenance.

The Mobile Active Targeting Resource for Integrated eXperiments (MATRIX) testbed, proposed by Boeing in response to the High Energy Laser Mobile Active Tracking Testbed solicitation, will utilize a modular, open architecture to allow integration of advanced sensing subsystems and techniques such as polarimetry, multi-function active illuminators/laser radar, short-pulse imaging, hyper/multispectral sensing and advanced tracking solutions that have applicability to a variety of high energy laser systems.

"The MATRIX win is key to our tactical strategy since it allows us to stay at the forefront of beam control and fire control technologies for tactical high energy laser systems," said Robert Van Allen, general manager of Boeing-SVS, Inc., Albuquerque, N.M. "The MATRIX program will define beam control/fire control for future tactical HEL systems by evaluating and selecting the optimum sensing, algorithm and beam control approaches to best aid the warfighter, and enable rapid integration of emerging tactical high energy laser devices."

The MATRIX program will be managed by the Air Force Research Laboratory, Directed Energy Directorate, Surveillance Technologies Branch. Air Force, Boeing and Pennsylvania State University affiliated personnel will perform the work in New Mexico, Hawaii and Pennsylvania.

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 $25 billion business. It provides systems solutions to its global military, government and commercial customers. It is a leading provider of intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance; 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; NASA's largest contractor; and a global leader in launch services.

###

For further information:
Monica Aloisio
Director, Missile Defense Systems Communications
703-414-6033
Madonna Walsh
Boeing IDS News Bureau
(314) 234-1362