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The U. S. Navy has awarded Boeing [NYSE:BA] a \$31.9 million contract for the design and production of a Reconfigurable Transportable Consolidated Automated Support System (RTCASS) to support existing Consolidated Automated Support System weapons system test program sets. This contract has a total potential value of more than \$200 million over a seven-year period.

Boeing, along with team members Systems & Electronics Inc. and Teradyne, has developed an affordable, lowrisk solution for the RTCASS program that features an open-system architecture, state-of-the-art software, and commercial-off-the-shelf technology components. Under the contract, Boeing will act as prime systems integrator, perform systems engineering, design and develop the test program sets transportability tools and station run time software, and perform the logistics, training, and technical publications functions.

"Our solution leverages Navy, U. S. Marine Corps, and the Boeing team's investments in new and emerging technologies to minimize total life cycle costs," said Joe O'Connell, director of Support Systems, Aerospace Support, for Boeing. "Our systems integration approach for this program uses proven processes and an experienced team that has worked together on several large Automatic Test Equipment efforts in the past. RTCASS uses the latest technology to provide the user with needs-based flexibility while minimizing footprint requirements. The Boeing team has the background, knowledge, and experienced personnel to meet the test program sets transportability challenges of the program."

The RTCASS is the newest member of the Navy's family of automatic test equipment. When used in conjunction with the appropriate test program software, the test equipment is capable of automatically testing and troubleshooting aircraft electronic systems and subsystems. The Consolidated Automated Support System is used at intermediate maintenance activities both ashore and afloat in addition to Navy repair depots. The RTCASS is a rugged, readily deployable version of CASS that is being produced to support Marine and U.S. Special Operations Command V-22 as well as USMC EA-6B, F/A-18 and AV-8B aircraft

A unit of The Boeing Company, Boeing Integrated Defense Systems, or IDS, 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.

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