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Boeing [NYSE: BA], under a subcontract to Northrop Grumman, is conducting a competition to acquire a supplemental electrical power system (SEPS) for the U.S. Air Force's E-10A 767-400 ER, a next-generation airborne ground surveillance and battle management and command and control platform.

Boeing will select a company to design, develop, test and deliver a fully integrated power system as part of the competition. The contract award is scheduled for spring 2004.

SEPS was chosen as the most viable solution to meet the current and future power requirements of the E-10A platform following a 10-month study by the E-10A team -- Boeing, Northrop Grumman and Raytheon -- and the Air Force.

As a self-contained unit, SEPS will power the radar and mission system, generating more than one megawatt of power, enough electricity to light a thousand homes. It does this with a minimum impact on airplane performance.

Earlier this year, Boeing was awarded a not-to-exceed contract of \$126 million to purchase the 767-400 ER with delivery scheduled for Dec. 2005. This followed another \$215 million contract award to Northrop Grumman -- teamed with Boeing and Raytheon -- for Weapons System Integration as part of E-10A's Increment 1.

Increment 1, the Air Force's evolutionary acquisition program, is underway with pre-system development and demonstration work. Under the agreement, Northrop Grumman, as prime contractor, is responsible for overall program management and system engineering, airframe modification, system integration and operational flight-testing.

Boeing will perform major structural modification design, air vehicle analysis and performance assessments and airworthiness testing.

Raytheon's primary responsibilities include radar and radome installation, support to system engineering, system integration and test for the cruise missile defense functionality.

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