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Boeing [NYSE: BA] has been awarded a contract worth approximately \$20 million to provide Harpoon Block II missile retrofit kits for the Australian Defence Force (ADF).

"We're thrilled to provide the world's most successful anti-ship missile to the Australian Defence Force," said John Lockard, senior vice president, Naval Systems, for Boeing. "The Harpoon Block II will definitely expand their ability to meet a wide range of missions, including a great improvement in coastal sea operations."

The Australians will install the Block II retrofit kits at their Orchard Hills facility in Australia. The ADF has used Harpoon Block I missiles since 1982, and it is currently used on surface ships, submarines and aircraft.

The Harpoon Block II kit provides a new guidance control unit flight computer, a new guidance section shell and a Global Positioning System (GPS) antenna. When installed, the Harpoon missile will have a more accurate navigation system and can be used for coastal target suppression.

The Block II missile incorporates key guidance technologies from two other Boeing weapons programs -- the low-cost, inertial measuring unit from the Joint Direct Attack Munition (JDAM); and the software, mission computer, integrated GPS/Inertial Navigation System, and GPS antenna and receiver from the Standoff Land Attack Missile Expanded-Response (SLAMER).

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 \$27 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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