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The Boeing [NYSE] Ground-based Midcourse Defense (GMD) industry team and the Missile Defense Agency's GMD Joint Program Office were honored with a special presentation of the John B. Medaris Award by the National Defense Industrial Association (NDIA) Tennessee Valley Chapter, Wednesday, at a ceremony in Huntsville, Ala.

The Medaris Award is typically presented annually to individuals who have made an outstanding contribution to the defense industrial community. This special team presentation is in recognition of the industry-government team and its fielding the nation's first ballistic missile defense capability this year.

"This team has delivered on a promise to provide the nation with a capability to defend against limited ballistic missile threat. Through extensive knowledge and unswerving dedication, the team accomplished what some deemed impossible," said James Evatt, senior vice president and general manager, Boeing Missile Defense Systems.

The Medaris Award is named after Maj.Gen. John B. Medaris, who was the first commanding general of the U.S. Army Ballistic Missile Agency at Redstone Arsenal, Ala., and former commanding general of the U.S. Army Ordnance Missile Command. The award was first presented in 1981.

Boeing is the largest aerospace company in Alabama . Today, the workforce of nearly 3,300 employees perform leading edge work on a broad array of key space and defense programs including the Ground-based Midcourse Defense, International Space Station, Delta Launch Vehicles, Avenger, Arrow and PAC-3 Missile.

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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