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Boeing [NYSE: BA] has been awarded a \$46.5 million extension of its Minuteman Sustaining Engineering contract to sustain the nation's intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs). The Boeing contract is part of an effort led by Northrop Grumman.

In additional to the Minuteman extension the Peacekeeper contract was also extended for 2005 and is valued at \$9.3 million.

"This is the seventh consecutive year that Boeing received a contract extension for these two programs," said Rick Schankel, Boeing ICBM Prime Director. Boeing won the original sustaining engineering contract for the nation's 500 Minuteman and 50 Peacekeeper ICBMs as part of the TRW (now Northrop Grumman) team in 1998.

"Since that time, our team, comprised of employees in Utah, California, and various Air Force's ICBM field locations has worked hand in hand with our customers to ensure these essential national assets are operational, Schankel said. "The dedication of our employees and the high quality of their work has allowed the team to generate more than \$100 million in additional contracts supporting the Air Force and the ICBM fleet this year."

The Minuteman ICBM was first deployed in the 1960s. The Peacekeeper joined the nuclear arsenal in the 1980s, but is in the process of being retired, as mandated by recent nuclear weapons treaties.

A unit of The Boeing Company, 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 network-centric system solutions to its global military, government and commercial customers. It is a leading provider of intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance systems; 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 and Department of Home land Security; NASA's largest contractor; and a global leader in launch services. ###

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