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The Boeing [NYSE: BA] Airborne and Maritime/Fixed Station Joint Tactical Radio System (AMF JTRS) program recently showcased its ability to bring Network-Centric communications to the battlespace during a successful Preliminary Design Review.

Government representatives and members of the Boeing-led team took part in the review at the company's facilities in Anaheim, Ca. The review featured simultaneous communications between an AMF JTRS prototype radio, current radios, and a JTRS Cluster 1 radio. Boeing passed the week-long review by meeting the government's performance and engineering requirements.

"It's a huge achievement that demonstrates the maturity and advanced nature of our design," said Leo Conboy, program manager for the Boeing AMF JTRS team. "Once deployed, the AMF JTRS radios will integrate more than 150 airborne, shipboard and fixed station platforms, allowing maritime and airborne forces to communicate with greater efficiency in a joint environment. Both AMF and Cluster 1 JTRS radios will be used by the U.S. Air Force, Army, Navy, Marines and Coast Guard."

The linking of the AMF JTRS system with JTRS C1 and current radios was achieved by using the Wideband Networking Waveform, a next generation wireless mobile network that will bring Internet capabilities to the battlefield and allow interoperability between the Joint Forces with software-defined radios.

The review culminates the pre-System Design and Development phase of the program, which will now move into the System Development and Demonstration phase. A single AMF JTRS supplier will be selected in the summer of 2006.

Boeing's best-of-industry team of airborne and maritime/fixed station integrators and premier radio suppliers includes Rockwell Collins, Harris, L-3 Communications, Northrop Grumman, Milcom Systems Corporation and BBN Technologies.

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