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The New Zealand Ministry of Defence has awarded Boeing (NYSE:BA) a \$11.2 million contract to develop and integrate upgrades to the communications systems of the country's two Boeing 757 multi-mission military aircraft.

"These upgrades will allow New Zealand to operate their aircraft more effectively in the multi-mission role by providing reliable and secure communications," said Pat Finneran, vice president and general manager of Boeing's Logistics Support Systems.

The upgrades are part of a program that will equip the two aircraft for multi-mission capabilities including: troop transport, aero-medical evacuation, VIP transportation and international humanitarian aid missions.

Boeing will design, develop and produce communications system upgrade kits at its Development and Modification Center in Wichita, Kan. The kits will be installed in the B-757 aircraft by Mobile Aerospace Engineering in Alabama in conjunction with other aircraft upgrade work being accomplished at that facility. Boeing will provide support for installation, test and certification of the upgrade kits.

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 \$30.5 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 Homeland Security; NASA's largest contractor; and a global leader in sustainment solutions and launch services.

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