Boeing Completes Delivery of First JTRS Cluster 1 Radios to Future Combat Systems Program

Boeing [NYSE: BA] and teammates BAE Systems, Rockwell Collins and Northrop Grumman have delivered the first seven Joint Tactical Radio System Cluster 1 (JTRS C1) radios, as scheduled, to the U.S. Army's Future Combat Systems (FCS) program. Additional units will be delivered to the FCS program in increments, to bring the total number of radios to 50 by late summer. The software-defined radios will now undergo integration by the FCS program at several sites across the country and ultimately bring Internet-like capabilities to the nation's warfighters while they're on the move.

"This is the first of several deliveries we'll be making to the FCS program this year," said Ralph Moslener, program manager for the Boeing Anaheim-based JTRS C1 program. "A significant milestone for both the JTRS and FCS programs, this brings us one step closer to our ultimate goal of placing these transformational radios in the hands of the nation's warfighters as quickly as possible."

The Cluster 1 radios are designed to provide networking capabilities to the battlefield. They provide the warfighter with new, secure capabilities, which include the transmission/receipt of real-time information -- both voice and text, the ability to stream live video and audio, draw and share maps, conduct Net-Meetings and use Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP).

"Today's JTRS radio delivery marks a significant step forward for the FCS program as we begin replacing computer emulators with the first 'live' JTRS radios and start testing the passage of information through the radios, as opposed to relying on simulation," said Don DePree, director, FCS C4ISR integrated product team. "Some of the radios will also be used in support of FCS experimentation activities later this year, providing crucial user feedback that will be incorporated back into the program thereby dramatically reducing risk."

The JTRS software-defined radios contain support infrastructure for the operation of Software Communication Architecture (SCA) compliant waveforms. The initial waveform set includes the single-channel ground air radio system waveform and the Wideband Networking Waveform-increment 1 (WNW), which uses common Internet Protocol-based networking concepts, as well as new mobile ad-hoc networking technology to integrate voice, video and data communications. The JTRS units provided to FCS are upgradeable. Operational software and waveform upgrades will be provided in the future as they become available.

The JTRS radio configuration has been successfully operated in multiple demonstrations over the past six months. These demonstrations have shown multi-channel operation, simultaneous waveform operation, interoperability with existing "legacy" radios, end-to-end radio operation, and multiple legacy waveform operation.

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