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The U.S. Air Force has awarded Boeing [NYSE: BA] a \$19.3 million contract extension for the continued development of its Airborne and Maritime/Fixed Station Joint Tactical Radio System (AMF JTRS).

As a prime systems integrator, Boeing is responsible for program management, systems and software engineering, network architecture development, airborne platform integration and integrated logistics support. The contract supports ongoing Pre-System Development and Demonstration phase activities. The Air Force is expected to award the design and development phase contract by the end 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, BBN Technologies, Northrop Grumman and Milcom Systems Corporation.

The AMF JTRS communications system will bring secure Internet-like capabilities and networking to the battlespace, including the transmission and receipt of real-time text and voice information, as well as the ability to stream live audio and video, share maps, conduct networked meetings and use Voiceover Internet Protocol.

Over the past eight months, the Boeing team has completed successful demonstrations of the system's advanced capabilities.

"Our recent demonstrations, along with our successful preliminary design review, show that we've resolved the major technology hurdles facing the AMF JTRS program," said Leo Conboy, Boeing AMF JTRS program manager.

The demonstrations showcased interoperability between AMF JTRS and JTRS Cluster 1 radios using the Wideband Networking Waveform with various Internet protocol applications. The demonstrations also included legacy waveform portability that allowed communications between the JTRS radios and radios currently used by the joint services.

The demonstrations, coupled with a recent F/A-18 and F-15 airborne demonstration of Tactical Targeting Network Technology by Boeing and AMF JTRS teammate Rockwell Collins, provide significant risk mitigation for the AMF JTRS program.

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 \$30.8 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; NASA's largest contractor; and a global leader in sustainment solutions and launch services.

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