

## Boeing Begins NASA Solar Electric Propulsion Study

# Boeing Begins NASA Solar Electric Propulsion Study

---

Advanced solar array and electric thruster technologies to be tested in future demonstrations

**HUNTINGTON BEACH, Calif., Jan. 11, 2012--** The Boeing Company [NYSE: BA] has begun work on a four-month NASA contract to develop a mission concept study for solar electric propulsion technologies. Under the \$600,000 firm, fixed-price contract, Boeing will evaluate concepts that combine high-power solar arrays with advanced electric thrusters to power spacecraft and payloads to high Earth orbit and deep space destinations.

“Boeing pioneered the use of electric propulsion, and has developed an approach to integrate compact, lightweight, and highly efficient solar arrays with next-generation electric thrusters in future spacecraft,” said Steve Johnston, director of Boeing Phantom Works’ Advanced Space Exploration division. “This technology offers weight and cost advantages while enabling increased on-orbit maneuverability for satellites in Earth orbit, and efficient deep space transportation for human exploration and robotic science missions.”

Boeing is one of five contractors selected to develop a mission concept to demonstrate solar electric propulsion technologies, capabilities and the infrastructure required to affordably sustain a human presence in space. Phantom Works will conduct the study in Huntington Beach with support from Boeing Space & Intelligence Systems electric power and propulsion experts in El Segundo, Calif.

A unit of The Boeing Company, [Boeing Defense, Space & Security](#) is one of the world's largest defense, space and security businesses specializing in innovative and capabilities-driven customer solutions, and the world’s largest and most versatile manufacturer of military aircraft. Headquartered in St. Louis, Boeing Defense, Space & Security is a \$32 billion business with 63,000 employees worldwide. Follow us on Twitter: [@BoeingDefense](#).

# # #

Contact:

Cheryl Sampson  
Boeing Phantom Works  
714-934-9373  
[cheryl.a.sampson@boeing.com](mailto:cheryl.a.sampson@boeing.com)

Deborah VanNierop  
Boeing Phantom Works  
210-454-2656  
[deborah.a.vannierop@boeing.com](mailto:deborah.a.vannierop@boeing.com)

---

Additional assets available online: [Photos \(1\)](#)