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B-1 upgrade will enhance bomber crews' situational awareness, communications

OKLAHOMA CITY, June 20, 2012 -- Boeing [NYSE: BA] has received a \$65.8 million Lot 2 follow-on contract from the U.S. Air Force for nine B-1 Lancer bomber Integrated Battle Station (IBS) modification kits, spares, training, support equipment and engineering support.

IBS integrates three major aircraft modifications -- an updated front and aft cockpit, a new diagnostics system and a new Link 16 data link -- which all enhance situational awareness and communications for the crew.

"Combining the three major B-1 modifications into one installation will not only save taxpayer dollars, but also will allow us to get the bombers back to the field much faster and with more capability," said Rick Greenwell, Boeing B-1 program director.

The initial Lot 1 contract was awarded in June 2011. Installation of those four kits will begin this fall at the company's Maintenance, Repair, Overhaul and Technology Center in Oklahoma City. Civilian employees from Tinker Air Force Base will install the upgrades while Boeing employees provide engineering support. Lot 2 kit orders will begin immediately and the entire fleet will be upgraded by the end of 2019.

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