

Boeing-led Missile Defense Team Completes GMD Flight Test

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Ground-based Midcourse Defense team returns to flight testing with successful fly-out mission

System remains on alert for US missile defense protection

VANDENBERG AIR FORCE BASE, Calif., Jan. 26, 2013-- Boeing [NYSE: BA], working with the U.S. Missile Defense Agency and industry teammates, today returned the Ground-based Midcourse Defense (GMD) system to testing with a successful flight. GMD is the United States' only defense against long-range ballistic missile threats.

"Today's test signals the next step in GMD's future capability and is the culmination of successful partnerships among government, military leaders and industry," said Greg Hyslop, vice president and general manager for Boeing Strategic Missile and Defense Systems. "Throughout our team effort to solve one of the toughest challenges facing the aerospace industry, GMD remained on alert and continues to defend the United States."

GMD flight testing was halted in early 2011 after a guidance error resulted in a failed intercept in a December 2010 test.

"Returning to flight has been the top priority for the GMD program. We have used industry and government's combined expertise to solve a complex technical issue related to what the interceptor's exoatmospheric kill vehicle (EKV) experiences in space," said Norm Tew, Boeing vice president and GMD program director. "Today's success is an important step toward our next goal of a successful intercept test."

The test at Vandenberg Air Force Base began at 2 p.m. Pacific time with the launch of a GMD ground-based interceptor (GBI) carrying a next-generation EKV. The test measured the EKV's performance as the vehicle operated under stressful space conditions. Data gathered during the test will be used to validate the EKV's design.

GMD is an integral element of the United States' layered ballistic missile defense architecture. With interceptors deployed at Vandenberg and at Fort Greely, Alaska, the program consists of command-and-control facilities, communications terminals and a 20,000-mile fiber-optic communications network that interface with ballistic missile defense radars and other sensors. Boeing has served as prime contractor since 2001 and works with industry partners Northrop Grumman, Orbital Sciences Corp. and Raytheon.

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Photos and b-roll video are available at http://www.mda.mil/news/gallery_gmd.html.


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