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Future Technologies

Two New Contract Awards for the Future Rapid Effect System (FRES) Programme

Atkins, the FRES Systems House, has placed two Technology Demonstrator Programme (TDP) contracts with Lockheed Martin (UK) Ltd and Thales, announced Lord Drayson, minister for Defence Procurement today.

The two Electronic Architecture contracts will seek to ensure that the cutting edge FRES electronics, which will use new technology, will be effective and compatible. They will seek to identify and mitigate risks associated with differing candidate architectures. Lockheed and Thales will also work with other TDP contractors on integration aspects of potential Electronic Architecture solutions.

Placing two concurrent contracts will enable MoD to address programme risks across the huge range of technologies and potential solutions. It also offers the opportunity for broad industry engagement and innovation at all levels of the supply chain. Lord Drayson said: "This is another positive step for the FRES programme. These contracts are part of a series of risk reduction activities to inform decisions on technologies that are feasible for FRES, ensuring we deliver first class equipment for our armed forces at the best value for the British taxpayer. There will be more TDPs to follow.

" FRES is the most significant armoured vehicle project for the next decade. It will provide a family of medium-weight, armoured fighting vehicles to fulfil a wide range of roles. FRES will be an integral part of an interoperable network and will deliver modern, battle-winning equipment to the Army.

BACKGROUND NOTES:

1. FRES is the first of the Army`s Transformational capabilities and is at the heart of the Army`s equipment programme. It will have wide operational utility, from peacekeeping to warfighting, and will both equip our medium-weight forces and provide key support roles to our heavy force.

2. The roles FRES will undertake and the number of vehicles to be procured will be determined by studies undertaken during the initial Assessment Phase.

3. FRES will focus on delivering the best proven technology, ensuring that there is sufficient growth potential for future upgrades.

4. Delivery of FRES will also enable the elimination of current vehicles such as CVR(T), FV 432 and Saxon from the inventory as soon as possible.

5. FRES provides an excellent opportunity for the defence industry to engage in the programme in line with the UK Defence Industrial Policy.

Contracts

BAE Systems Receives $31.9 Million Contract for Survivability Enhancement Armor for Army Combat Vehicles

SANTA CLARA, Calif. -- BAE Systems has been awarded a $31.9 million delivery order from the U.S. Army Tank-automotive and Armaments Command (TACOM) to manufacture add-on-armor suites to be installed on M113 vehicles in Iraq

"BAE Systems is committed to bringing survivability capabilities to our soldiers as quickly as we can," said Paul Para, M113 program manager for BAE Systems. "The installation of the add-on-armor has an immediate impact in Iraq." The contract, funded initially at 50 percent, calls for transparent armor shields and add-on-armor, including side armor and mine armor to be installed on M113 vehicles in Iraq.

Deliveries are expected to begin in December 2005 and will continue through February 2006. BAE Systems is an international company engaged in the development, delivery, and support of advanced defense and aerospace systems in the air, on land, at sea, and in space. The company designs, manufactures, and supports military aircraft, combat vehicles, surface ships, submarines, radar, avionics, communications, electronics, and guided weapon systems.

Defence Industry

Patria Presents AMV 6X6 Vehicle In Poland

A new 6x6 version of Patria's well-known AMV vehicle is presented today in MSPO Exhibition in Poland. Patria AMV has raised significant international interest since it was launched in 2001.

The new concept is based – among other things – on modularity. The Polish Defence Forces ordered 690 Patria AMVs in 2003 including 32 light and extremely mobile 6x6 vehicles. The Polish customer has already received more than 40 vehicles, a total of 90 vehicles will be delivered this year.

Patria has been happy with the procedure of the AMV project known as KTO in Poland. Up to now Patria has fulfilled, and even in some cases exceeded, its offset obligations contractually and in time. Deliveries as well as the presentation of the new 6x6 version have taken place according to schedule. Employees of the Polish

WZMS company have been trained in Finland as agreed and the necessary technology for the final assembly of AMVs and manufacture of certain components has been transferred to Poland. Patria has also established subsidiaries in Poland thus being able to serve the Polish customer even better and support the Polish industry in the manufacturing start-up phase.

Recently Patria AMV has successfully passed tests in the Czech Republic, South Africa, Brazil and Kuwait. Patria has received RFQ's e.g. from the Czech Republic, Croatia and Belgium, which are expected to make their decisions even during this year.

Patria AMV offers high protection, modularity and air transportability, though meeting even the most stringent procurement criteria for today's defence forces, including NATO compatibility. AMV is a European solution with unquestioned logistic benefits to the user, due to the maximised use of standard COTS products and standard military components. Currently, Patria AMV is not only a totally new concept but also the only fourth generation armoured modular vehicle already in serial production on the market.

Patria is an internationally operating Aerospace and Defence Group. Patria's key business areas are armoured wheeled vehicles, mortar systems, helicopters and aircraft, and life cycle support. Patria delivers internationally competitive solutions to global markets based on own specialist know-how and partnerships. Patria's owners are the Finnish State and EADS, European Aeronautic Defence and Space Company.

Robots

Foster-Miller Awarded $96 million Contract for Additional TALON Robots

Foster-Miller, Inc., announced today that it has received its largest US military order to date for ground robots. The multi-year contract increased from $27.5 million for 250 robots to $124 million for up to 1200 TALON™ Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) robots.

This order falls under the Man Transportable Robotic System program (MTRS) that is managed by the Naval Surface Warfare Center in Indian Head, MD. TALON™ robots will be delivered to Air Force, Army, Marine Corps and Navy EOD units around the world.

TALON robots are powerful, durable, lightweight tracked vehicles that are widely used for explosive ordnance disposal, reconnaissance, communications, sensing, security, defense and rescue. They are man-portable and have all-weather, day/night and amphibious capabilities and can navigate virtually any terrain.

Foster-Miller is the largest provider of robots for EOD work in Iraq and Afghanistan with more than 250 TALON robots deployed in theater. These TALON robots have successfully completed more than 50,000 EOD missions, and have rendered safe thousands of Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs), increasing security and safety in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"Foster-Miller is honored that TALON robots continue to be the soldier's choice for EOD operations," said Dr. William Ribich, president and CEO. "Every robot we can put in harm's way helps to protect soldiers and civilians and reduces the threats posed on the battlefield. Foster-Miller remains committed to constant innovation to ensure that we provide our warfighters with the strategic advantages they need to complete their missions."

TALON robots have been in continuous, active military service since 2000 when they were successfully used in Bosnia to move and dispose of live grenades. They were used extensively at Ground Zero in search and recovery efforts after the September 11 attack on the World Trade Center and were the first robots taken into Afghanistan by Special Forces during action against the Taliban in 2002. TALON robots entered Iraq with US forces in March, 2003.

Robots

Tiny Robot Carries Big Responsibility in Iraq

CAMP VICTORY, Iraq -- Technology has always played an important role in the success of the U.S. military, and the introduction of the multi-function agile radio-controlled robot, "MARCBOT," is one piece of technology helping in the fight against improvised explosive devices in Iraq.

The MARCBOT is a system developed by the Defense Department`s Rapid Equipping Force in conjunction with Exponent Inc. which uses a camera attached to a robot with the purpose of seeking out, identifying and confirming possible improvised explosive devices, said Dr. Bill Cohen, engineering and science consultant, Exponent Inc., Menlo Park, Calif. Cohen works directly with Soldiers to figure out what is the most cost-effective and quickest way to solve any particular problem. "Anything technical or scientific that the soldiers say they need, any capability gap they need filled or any tools they say they need, I provide them with," Cohen said. "It turned out that the MARCBOT plays a bigger part in the improvised explosive devices fight than a lot of people had thought." Designed to be small enough and mobile enough for a platoon or squad-size element, the MARCBOT was developed and tested in Iraq and therefore has a higher success rate than products that were tested elsewhere, Cohen said.

Testing products in the theater is very beneficial to the testing process in that all factors are considered. If the project is tested in a controlled environment the full effect might not be achieved, Cohen said. "There have been several cases where we had a suspected improvised explosive device and were not comfortable going up there ourselves," said 2nd Lt. Brian James Duncan, platoon leader, 2nd Platoon, Company C, 612th Engineer Battalion, Ohio Army National Guard. "If the improvised explosive device is large enough to take out our vehicles, we send the MARCBOT instead, because we don't want to risk the lives of the several soldiers manning the vehicle.

"There have also been cases when other pieces of equipment can't reach into places like drainage ditches, or underneath things like crosswalks. "We can't always take every piece of equipment we have off-road, but we can take the MARCBOT off-road," Duncan said. "Out vehicles have the potential to get stuck if we take them into too-rough terrain, and that poses a whole new problem of exposing ourselves while we try to get the vehicle un-stuck." There are also a lot of anti-personnel mines off of the road, which poses another risk with taking vehicles off-road, making the MARCBOT extremely useful in a variety of circumstances, Duncan continued.

"Say there was a suspicious looking bag 60 meters off of the road. It could be a bomb or a small weapons cache," Duncan explained. "Our best option is to send the MARCBOT out there to check it out. For all of these reasons I think the MARCBOT is a valuable piece of equipment for us to have." The MARCBOT would also be an important tool for infantry and other units, Duncan continued. "If units came upon a suspicious looking object, they could check it out with the MARCBOT. It would save time for the Explosive Ordnance Disposal teams, because they wouldn`t have to come out to confirm or deny the object.

The MARCBOT could do that," Duncan said. "It would be useful for the infantry because often they have to patrol streets and alleys that are too small to be navigated by vehicles," Duncan continued. "There are a lot of situations where EOD might not be able to go where the infantry goes." "I can definitely see these robots having a much more instrumental role in this and the following years than they did at the beginning of the conflict, due to the fact that a lot of the improvised explosive devices are on the small secondary streets," Duncan added. Thanks to the successful field testing of the MARCBOT, mass distribution of the latest model is scheduled for the end of September, 2005.

Contracts

Stewart & Stevenson Wins U.S. Army Contract for Additional 292 Armored Cabs

HOUSTON, -- Stewart & Stevenson Services, Inc. announced that Stewart & Stevenson Tactical Vehicle Systems, LP (TVS) received a contract from the U.S. Army to produce an additional 292 Low Signature Armored Cabs (LSAC) for its Family of Medium Tactical Vehicles (FMTV).

Previously, the Army had authorized the long lead item material procurement for these cabs and deliveries were anticipated by the company in the third fiscal quarter of the year.

The contract, valued at approximately $17 million, will bring the U.S. Army's LSAC inventory to over 2,000. The LSAC is specifically designed to minimize any adverse impact on the soldier and the vehicle. The armored cab acts as a protective cocoon, shielding its occupants from a variety of threats including enemy assault, extreme climate conditions, and accidents including roll-over. To date, these protective systems have saved numerous soldiers' lives in operational zones.

Dennis Dellinger, President of TVS, said, "We take pride in our proactive approach of providing effective protection systems for our soldiers and in meeting the Army's armoring needs in response to the on-going war effort. We are working with the U.S. Army in defining future vehicle protection strategies. This ensures development of our production and design capabilities to protect our soldiers in the future."

Stewart & Stevenson has produced over 30,000 FMTV vehicles and 1,700 LSAC cabs since 1991 from their state-of-the-art facility in Sealy, Texas. The FMTV, which includes 2.5-ton, 5-ton and 10-ton trucks in more than 15 active variants, has become the platform of choice for the U.S. Army. In April 2005, Stewart & Stevenson widened their military product range to include the 4x4 and 6x6 Pinzgauer all-terrain vehicle, built in the United Kingdom.

Contracts

French Ministry of Defence Awards GIAT and TDA a Contract for Precision Improvement of Artillery Systems

LONDON -- French DGA recently awarded to Giat and TDA a second contract for development of the artillery precision improvement system called SPACIDO. The first phase was awarded in November 2003.

By this new order, France confirms again its will to equip Land Forces with SPACIDO system at short term. In order to improve the precision of all existing 105 and

155 mm artillery systems, Giat and TDA have devised a course correction device called SPACIDO. This inventive system, fully autonomous, and independent from any positionning system as GPS, allows range precision enhancement by a coefficient 4, resulting in an extensive reduction of artillery life cycle costs.

Defence Industry

Thales UK launches latest Catherine camera

Thales UK has staked its claim as the world leader in advanced cooled thermal imaging technology, with the launch of the latest variant of its successful range of Catherine cameras.

The new Catherine MP (MegaPixel) deploys third generation detector technology, exclusively developed by Thales, to produce an image in excess of one million pixels. The Thales UK Catherine MP will deliver high levels of long-range performance approaching that of the groundbreaking STAIRS C camera but at substantially lower cost - ensuring affordability within many defence budgets throughout the world.

During the camera's launch at the DSEi show this week, vice president of Defence Optronics, Chris Gane, explained where the camera fitted into Thales UK's product range: "This product, together with our ongoing development of cooled cameras, using Quantum Well technology, reflects our strategy of lowering the costs of procurement and ownership of cooled thermal imaging. Cooled TI will always out-perform uncooled TI but we realise that performance in itself is not always enough for the cost conscious customer."

The UK MoD strongly endorsed this low-cost approach to high performance thermal vision and has supported the development to reduce risks on its future programmes

Mr Gane went on to emphasise the general market potential of the camera stating that he expected there to be major requirements for cooled TI in the coming years. He also identified the UK FRES programme as an excellent opportunity to offer affordable high performance cooled solutions for more demanding requirements such as recce and guided weapon variants.

Thales' is widely acknowledged for its ability to identify and answer the market needs for high-performance long-range vision capabilities. Both military and emerging Homeland Security customers are expected to benefit from this new focus on affordability.

Defence Industry

Thales UK launches THOR weapon system

Thales UK has unveiled THOR, the first weapon systems of its type. Produced by Thales UK's air systems facility in Belfast, THOR is a new vehicle mounted Multi Mission System, and is the only weapon system to combine surface-to-air and surface-to-surface capabilities within one lightweight launcher.

Defence and security forces across the globe are faced with an increasing variety of conventional and asymmetric threats. Following consultation with many military users Thales UK has developed THOR as a multi-role force protection system, which can be deployed rapidly and operated with ease in warfare or against terrorist threats.

The THOR system comprises a four-missile turret with an integral stabilised sighting system, high performance TV camera and thermal camera to provide a 24-hour capability. These latest generation sensors have been designed to detect small signature targets and they are integrated with an Automatic Target Tracker to ensure a fully automated target engagement and tracking process. The launcher features a modular design and weighs less 500kg, as such it can be integrated onto a range of wheeled or tracked vehicles.

Highlighting THOR's versatility, Millar Crawford, managing director of Thales UK's air systems business, commented: "When it comes to effect and flexibility, THOR offers more than any other system. It can be mounted on a variety of vehicles, utilise a number of weapon systems and counter an array of different threats. For multi-role force protection, THOR breaks the mould."

Thor's fully open systems architecture means that a variety of surface to air and anti-armour missiles can be integrated into the system. The primary missile is Starstreak - a unique multi-role laser guided missile, with

a speed in excess of Mach 3 and a range greater than 6 kilometres. While the prime role of Starstreak is in anti-aircraft missions, the system has successfully demonstrated capability against both ground armoured targets and structures.

THOR interfaces with the overall force network for operation in a command and control structure or, if required, can be operated in autonomous mode. With the ability to plug and fight, THOR can be linked with radar systems such as Page, or passive sensors such as ADAD. In addition THOR has can be provided with a new on-board UHF Alerter, which Thales is designing, to provide a low cost early warning capability.

Defence Industry

Thales UK SWARM remote weapon system selected for US Marine Corps Gladiator Programme

The Thales UK SWARM Remote Weapon System has been selected for the United States Marine Corps Gladiator Programme following a rigorous competition conducted by General Dynamics Armament & Technical Products (GDATP), based at Burlington, Vermont, USA.

The Gladiator Tactical Unmanned Ground Vehicle (TUGV) is a remotely operated combat vehicle capable of carrying out search-and-discovery missions in potentially hostile areas. It is able to warn dismounted troops of potential dangers ahead such as minefields, craters, trenches and hidden enemy positions, as well as alerting them to the presence of chemical, biological and nuclear hazards. The SWARM weapon system, fitted with a 7.62mm M240 machine gun and day/night sensors, will provide a potent offensive capability.

A team headed by Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, including BAE Land Systems (York, Pennsylvania) and GDATP won the $26.4M contract in February to design, develop and deliver six prototype Gladiator vehicles to the Marine Corps, the production quantity is expected to be in the order of 200 units.

SWARM is a fully armoured remotely operated weapons system capable of taking a variety of different calibre weapons and sensor options. It is unique in that it is the only RWS that is fully qualified to tracked vehicle specification.

Commenting on this success Karen Oddey, Managing Director of Thales UK's land & joint systems business, said, "SWARM is a truly versatile system and this win reflects the significant investment by Thales UK to design and qualify a very reliable, adaptable and low cost armoured remote weapon system"

The SWARM systems will be manufactured at the Thales UK facility in Glasgow where production is about to begin on 35 systems for the British Army's Trojan Engineering Tank.

Defence Industry

Smiths Wins Key Role in MoD`s Armoured Vehicle Project of Next Decade

LONDON -- Smiths Aerospace is selected as part of the Lockheed Martin team to play a key role in the design, integration and demonstration of electronic architecture concepts for the Future Rapid Effect System (FRES).

The FRES programme is the most significant armoured vehicle project of the next decade. It will provide a family of medium-weight, armoured fighting vehicles to fulfill a wide range of roles. FRES will be an integral part of an interoperable network, rapidly deployable, by sea or air, and will deliver modern, battle-winning equipment to the Army. "Smiths is pleased to be a part of Lockheed Martin`s team to provide leading technologies for the increasingly complex and demanding requirements of the UK`s armed forces," commented John Ferrie, President, Smiths Aerospace.

"We believe our systems integration and engineering expertise will compliment the capabilities of the team and will make a valuable contribution to the success of the FRES programme." Lockheed Martin is leading one of two teams that have been selected for the initial design, assessment and integration of electronic architecture for the vehicles. Other team members are SciSys, Ultra, PA Consulting and Cranfield University. Delivery will be 18 months after contract award and the key objectives of the programme are risk reduction, demonstration of the candidate electronic architecture and validation of the requirement in preparation for the development and manufacturing phase.

Smiths Aerospace, a part of Smiths Group plc, is a leading transatlantic aerospace systems and equipment company, with more than 10,000 employees and $2 billion revenues globally. The company holds key positions in the supply chains of all major military and civil aircraft and engine manufacturers and is a world-leader in electrical power, digital and mechanical systems, engine components and customer services.

Defence Industry

ITT Awarded U.S. Army's Omnibus VII Night Vision Contract

WHITE PLAINS, NY -- ITT Industries, Inc Night Vision (ITT) has received an Omnibus VII night vision contract from the U.S. Army Contracting Agency of White Sands Missile Range in New

Mexico.

The indefinite delivery indefinite quantity (IDIQ) contract has the potential to value an estimated $1.39 billion during the five-year contract period 2005-2009. Under this contract, ITT has received an initial award of more than $160 million for AN/PVS-14 Monocular Night Vision Devices and AN/PVS-7 night vision goggles, along with $40 million for production facilities and equipment.

ITT received one of two OMNI VII contracts awarded. Each of the two contractors received the same total potential award of up to 370,486 AN/PVS-14 and 34,300 AN/PVS-7 goggles and associated spare image tubes. Unlike firm-fixed price contracts, this IDIQ contract is structured so that the Army will grant awards to contractors based in large part on the contractor№s ability to deliver the required products on time. Thus the total value initially announced is not indicative of the award activity for each contractor. The award significance is revealed when actual orders are issued.

Delivery of the Omnibus VII night vision units will begin in January 2006. As part of their goal to equip all warfighters with life-saving technology, the Army and U.S. Marine Corps are fielding the night vision devices across all deployed units of active duty service members. “Helping protect those who protect our way of life is of utmost importance to ITT,” said Larry Curfiss, vice president & director of Business Development. “We are committed to supplying our soldiers with the life-saving night vision technology they need to perform their critical missions safely.” ITT Industries, Inc.

supplies advanced technology products and services in key markets including: fluid and water management including water treatment; defense communication, opto-electronics, information technology and services; electronic interconnects and switches; and other specialty products. Headquartered in White Plains, NY, the company generated $6.8 billion in 2004 sales.

Defence Industry

Metal Storm Signs Munitions Development Agreement with US Army

ARLINGTON, Va. -- Defense technology company Metal Storm Limited today announced that it`s US subsidiary, Metal Storm, Inc has signed an agreement with the US Army to develop and adapt munitions for use with Metal Storm 40mm weapons systems.

David Smith, Metal Storm`s CEO, said the Cooperative Research and Development Agreement (CRADA) is significant because it formalizes the company`s partnership with a key defense industry research organization. "The CRADA will allow us to take existing certified munitions from the US Army inventory and convert them to Metal Storm configuration," he said.

"Our agreement with the US Army Research Development and Engineering Center (ARDEC) provides us with the opportunity to establish a successful business development partnership with one of the defense industry`s most influential research organizations," he said. "It also supports Metal Storm`s clearly stated strategy of focusing on its core 40mm technology, getting it to market in the shortest time possible and transforming itself into a systems integrator." Mr. Smith said the agreement would provide the framework for the rapid development testing and eventual certification of a range of 40mm munitions for use with Metal Storm`s weapon systems.

Under the agreement, which has a life of up to 5 years, Metal Storm will work closely with US Army engineers and will have access to specialized equipment, laboratories, and armaments facilities on a fee for service basis. The estimated cost to Metal Storm of the scope of works under this agreement is up to US$549,000 (approximately AU$730,000) which the Company expects to be completed within the next 12 to 18 months. Metal Storm Limited is a defense technology company engaged in the development of electronically initiated ballistics systems using its unique "stacked round" technology.

The company is headquartered in Brisbane, Australia and incorporated in the US, with an office in Washington DC. Metal Storm is working with government agencies and departments, as well as industry, to develop a variety of systems utilizing the Metal Storm non-mechanical, electronically fired stacked ammunition system.

Contracts

Armor Holdings, Inc. Receives $17 Million Order for Individual Body Armor Outer Tactical Vests

Adds $48.2 Million in Additional Options for 2006 - 2007 Delivery.
JACKSONVILLE, Fla., -- Armor Holdings, Inc. (NYSE: AH), a leading manufacturer of security products and vehicle armor systems serving military, law-enforcement, homeland security and commercial markets, announced today the receipt of a contract modification from the Defense Supply Center-Philadelphia for approximately $17.2 million to produce additional quantities of Outer Tactical Vests used in the Individual Body Armor ensemble.

Armor Holdings indicated that the vests, which also carry protective ceramic body armor plates, will be supplied in early 2006 to various U.S. military customers. The Company also stated that the current contract was modified to add additional exercisable options valued at approximately $48.2 million which are anticipated for performance in 2006 and 2007. Work under this contract will continue to be managed at Armor Holdings Aerospace and Defense Group operations in

Tennessee, with the additional work performed in its recently acquired Alabama facilities gained through the acquisition of Second Chance.

Robert Schiller, President of Armor Holdings, Inc., said, "This award adds to our growing 2006 backlog for deliveries of individual equipment to support the U.S. military and fuels our increasing individual equipage production base. It is gratifying to acquire a company like Second Chance and immediately make use of its existing infrastructure, capitalize on its experienced employment base, and be able to provide our customer the opportunity to satisfy the growing demand for personal equipment for our military. We are confident that our operations in Tennessee, Kentucky, and Alabama provide Armor Holdings with additional opportunity for sustained high volume deliveries of survivability and safety equipment to our men and women in uniform."

Robots

Seoul to Build Combat Robot

Defense and communications technicians will team up to develop a mobile combat robot to fight alongside human soldiers on the battlefield, the government said Wednesday. Officials heading the project said they have requested 33.4 billion won ($32.4 million) in funding between 2006 and 2011 to develop the horse-like robot for deployment.

According to design blueprints released during a meeting of science-related ministers, the robot will have six or eight extendable legs with wheels allowing it to move like an insect over uneven terrain.

The robot will be armed with various weapons and will operate both by remote control and its own artificial intelligence system.

The Defense Ministry will develop the robot's mobility systems and handle overall system integration with a budget of 17.2 billion won.

The Ministry of Information and Communication will provide the remote control systems.

Researchers at the Agency for Defense Development and the Electronics and Telecommunications Research Institute will be tasked with developing most of the technology.

In addition to the combat robot project, the two defense and communications ministries will work together to design small, easily deployable sensors that will be linked up in a electronic detection and control network. Officials said the network will help military authorities to patrol the country's borders.

Following the meeting chaired by Deputy Prime Minister Oh Myung, officials said the government's budget for research and development (R&D) projects will grow by 14-15 percent in 2006, up from the 12.5 percent earmarked at earlier this year.

The government originally allocated 8.77 trillion won for R&D as part of efforts to promote next generation growth technologies.

Defence Industry

MAK RTI Chosen By Australian Defence

CAMBRIDGE, Mass., – MAK Technologies, the world's leading supplier of distributed simulation software, announced that the Australian Defence Simulation Office (ADSO) has chosen to standardize on the MAK RTI for High Level Architecture (HLA) networking for distributed simulation systems for development of the Australian Joint Simulation Capability (JSC) in partnership with the Australian Army Navy, Air Force, and Defence Science Technology Organization (DSTO).

The choice is expected to enhance cooperation and interoperability between the services and the defense experimentation framework.

"The MAK RTI was chosen after an extensive evaluation," said Cliff White, Director General of ADSO. "We wanted to implement a standardized approach to connectivity and the MAK RTI's proven performance in large exercises was the deciding factor in our choice."

"MAK recognizes the trust ADSO has given us with their choice of our RTI," said Warren Katz, MAK Technologies' chief operating officer. "Their purchase recognizes our interoperability expertise, our superior technical support, and the cost-effectiveness of purchasing our product over other options."

An RTI is a key component of the HLA networking architecture. The verified and fully compliant MAK RTI has been chosen as the backbone of major simulation programs. MAK RTI customers include Lockheed Martin's F-16 Mission Training Center, Northrop Grumman Mission Systems' DMT lab, the NATO First WAVE exercise, AFRL Warfighter Training Research Division, FATS and Verrax. The MAK RTI is consistently proven in third party studies to be the most efficient RTI available.

About MAK Technologies

MAK Technologies develops software to link, simulate and visualize the virtual world. We create tools and toolkits for distributed simulations, develop PC-based military tactical trainers, craft custom solutions, and research and develop the latest simulation technologies. We build commercial off the shelf simulation software that is flexible, portable and supported. Whether you choose our bestselling networking toolkit, VR-Link or our computer generated

forces toolkit, VRForces, you have purchased a product backed by the industry's leading distributed simulation experts.

Defence Industry

TCS SecureOffice DTNG Multi-level Security (MLS) Solution to Be Bundled with MAK Products

Cambridge, Mass., – MAK Technologies, the world's leading supplier of distributed simulation software, and Trusted Computer Solutions, Inc. (TCS), a leading supplier of secure information sharing technologies to the Department of Defense, the intelligence community and commercial industry, announced they have signed a Value Added Reseller (VAR) agreement.

Under the agreement, TCS will offer a bundle of MAK products with their multilevel security solution, SecureOffice DTNG (Distributed Training Network Guard).

DTNG permits secure connectivity between highly classified simulators and the rest of the simulation community. Typically, warfighter simulators operate in controlled domains and cannot communicate with other simulators without risking accidental disclosure of sensitive data. As a result, warfighters are isolated from other members of the simulation community, precluding simulation exercises that mimic real world operations and limiting the effectiveness of training exercises.

DTNG solves this problem by providing secure two-way automated transfer of data.

"Today more than ever it is imperative that warfighter simulators are able to share vital information in real time without the risk of accidentally disclosing sensitive data," said Ed Hammersla, chief operating officer at TCS. "Partnering with MAK Technologies allows TCS customers the capability to create more realistic simulations of real-world warfighter operations in a highly classified, secure environment."

"With an increased emphasis on joint simulation exercises in the DoD, multi-level security has become vital," said Marc Schlackman, vice president of marketing and sales for MAK Technologies. "Working with TCS, the developer of the bestin-breed MLS solution, to offer a solution for our customers seemed a natural choice."

DTNG and MAK tools will be packaged in bundles to include combinations of the MAK RTI, the MAK Data Logger, the MAK Gateway, the MAK Stealth and the MAK Plan View Display.

A run-time infrastructure (RTI) is a key component of the high level architecture (HLA) . The MAK RTI is consistently proven in third party studies to be the most efficient RTI available. The verified and fully compliant MAK RTI has been chosen as the backbone of major simulation programs. MAK RTI customers include Lockheed Martin's F-16 Mission Training Center, Northrop Grumman Mission Systems' DMT lab, AFRL Warfighter Training Research Division, NATO's First WAVE exercise, the Australian Defense Simulation Office, FATS and Verrax.

The MAK Gateway is a vital tool for distributed simulations, allowing legacy DIS simulations to participate in an HLA exercise, bridging the two network architectures. The Gateway uses VR-Link, taking full advantage of the networking toolkit's FOM-Agile infrastructure. The MAK Data Logger records and replays networked simulations.

Defence Industry

BM, Red Hat and Trusted Computer Solutions Team to Deliver Most Secure Version of Linux Available Companies Enter Common Criteria Evaluation to Make Red Hat Enterprise Linux a Government Certified

HERNDON, Va., RALEIGH, NC & ARMONK, NY -- Trusted Computer Solutions, Inc. (TCS), a leading supplier of information sharing technologies to the Department of Defense, the intelligence community and commercial industry, together with Red Hat, the world's leading provider of open source solutions to the enterprise, and IBM, today announced that Red Hat Enterprise Linux is in Common Criteria evaluation on a broad range of IBM eServer systems.

This evaluation will mean that the Red Hat Enterprise Linux meets government security standards for assured information sharing within and across government agencies.

Red Hat Enterprise Linux v.5 officially entered The National Information Assurance Partnership (NIAP) approved Common Criteria Evaluation & Validation Scheme (CCEVS) this month to bring a new level of security and assurance to Linux. This operating platform contains kernel and Security Enhanced Linux (SELinux) policy enhancements, developed by IBM, Red Hat, TCS and the community. TCS security enhancements augment the security features of the National Security Agency's SELinux.

The joint effort enables high-value, proven, cross-domain security applications — such as TCS SecureOffice® NetTop® and NetTop2 - Thin Client, which allow users access to multiple security levels on a single computer — to run on Red Hat Enterprise Linux.

"For years our customers have been clamoring for the look, feel, flexibility, and functionality of today's commercial software," said Susan Alexander, chief of information assurance research at the NSA. "With NetTop, based on SELinux, they can get just such an environment...without compromising on security."

Prior to the general availability of Red Hat Enterprise Linux v.5 and in compliance with NSTISSP No. 11 National Policy, government agencies can now acquire and implement TCS cross-domain security applications based on a Linux trusted operating system platform. Red Hat Enterprise Linux v.5 will be the first open source distribution with these capabilities.

IBM is sponsoring the certification of Red Hat Enterprise Linux v.5 and has entered the CCEVS at Evaluation Assurance Level 4 (EAL4) and will include the security functionality defined in three protection profiles recognized by the Common Criteria: Labeled Security Protection Profile (LSPP), Controlled Access Protection Profile (CAPP), and Role-Based Access Control Protection Profile (RBAC). These profiles support the requirements of Director of Central Intelligence Directive (DCID) 6/3 at Protection Level 4, which specifies security intelligence-related information and systems measures, including those necessary for Top Secret and Below Interoperability (TSABI).

This CCEVS evaluation means Red Hat Enterprise Linux will reach a level of security previously achieved by only a handful of trusted operating systems. Red Hat Enterprise Linux is now positioned to provide best-of-breed security capabilities for commercial operating systems, offering the government, as well as businesses, unprecedented choice for security applications. The benefits included broader hardware platform choice, reduced cost and IT complexity, improved access to data for decision making and improved government collaboration and intelligence sharing.

Red Hat Enterprise Linux v.5 is anticipated to be in general availability from Red Hat in late 2006. However, in compliance with NSTISSP No. 11 National Policy, the functionality is available today from TCS as a component of their commercial products.

"Red Hat Enterprise Linux will join an exclusive community of trusted operating systems that have achieved this level of security," said Ed Hammersla, chief operating officer at TCS. "The powerful collaboration between IBM, Red Hat, NSA and TCS is going to shake things up, and means our customers have a safe open source alternative to run our SecureOffice suite of application software. "

“IBM is joining with Red Hat and TCS to enhance its offerings to the government market with solutions that support both open standards and government security standards,” said Anne Altman, IBM’s managing director of US Federal. “This announcement represents another example of IBM’s ongoing commitment to supplying solutions to the government market, and its commitment to expanding the adoption of Linux throughout government and government agencies. ”

“In a relatively short period of time Linux has come to be known as a standard, secure computing platform,” said Brian Stevens, vice president of Operating Systems Development at Red Hat. “This new level of certification is a testament to the power of collaboration. IBM, TCS, the NSA, Red Hat and the community have worked together to bring the Linux platform forward with rapid innovation in the area of security. This collaboration and evaluation effort will make Red Hat Enterprise Linux the most secure open source operating system platform available. ”

IBM is working with Red Hat to sponsor the certification of Red Hat Enterprise Linux v.5 on multiple platforms to maximize choice and value for customers. Red Hat Enterprise Linux v.5 will be evaluated on IBM server brands, including: xSeries, pSeries, zSeries and BladeCenter. IBM’s server product line offers customers industry-leading performance together with application flexibility, solution choice, and outstanding scalability, reliability and security. IBM’s Linux Technology center is working with the open source community and contributing code to this effort. IBM selected atsec information security, a vendor-independent consulting company in the business of IT security, as the certification lab for this effort.

Contracts

Euro 151 million order for special armoured vehicles for the Bundeswehr – comprehensive protection for German troops

Rheinmetall Landsysteme GmbH of Kiel will supply the Bundeswehr with 181 new armoured vehicles specifically designed to provide German troops with greater protection when deployed in harm's way. The contract for this Euro 151 million procurement package has just been signed in Koblenz. Rheinmetall Landsysteme is a subsidiary of Dusseldorf-based Rheinmetall AG.

This important order bolsters Rheinmetall's market position as Europe's leading supplier of tracked and wheeled armoured vehicles as well as a prime source of comprehensive force protection concepts. Moreover, the company views the order as a valuable reference for future export sales.

Specifically, the order encompasses 81 BV 206 S command and transport vehicles, costing a total of Euro 67 million, and 100 Duro lightweight armoured personnel carriers worth Euro 84 million. The vehicles will enter service from 2006 through 2009.

Flexible, airportable and ready to roll as soon as they hit the ground, these Rheinmetall light armoured vehicles are ideal for airmobile intervention forces. Moreover, thanks to their state-of-the-art armour technology, they offer a high degree of protection against such battlefield hazards as landmines and small arms fire.

As Klaus Eberhardt, Chairman of the Executive Board of Rheinmetall AG, sums up: "This contract underscores Rheinmetall's role as a technological pacesetter in the modernization of the Bundeswehr."

Defence Industry

Successful Flight Test of GPS-guided Artillery Projectile Puts Raytheon-Bofors Excalibur Closer to Fielding

TUCSON, Ariz., -- Proving accuracy and lethality, the Raytheon Missile Systems-Bofors' Excalibur team fired a global positioning system (GPS)-guided 155mm artillery projectile, successfully engaging a representative target with devastating effects.

"The end-to-end test of the Excalibur system demonstrates that we have a weapon system ready for fielding," said Raytheon's Excalibur program director John Halvey.

"The Excalibur team has made a tremendous step forward toward meeting the objective of fielding by March 2006," said Lt. Col. Bill Cole, the U.S. Army's product manager for Excalibur at Picatinny Arsenal, N.J. "Excalibur has proven at the system level that it can meet its precision and lethality objectives." The program is a cooperative effort between the United States and Sweden.

Currently the Excalibur team is responding to an urgent request from the warfighter to accelerate Excalibur fielding because of the projectile's better than 10-meter accuracy which is unavailable from any other artillery projectile. Soldiers and Marines will use Excalibur to reduce collateral damage and increase their survivability while efficiently accomplishing the mission.

The Excalibur projectile was fired from the Army's 155mm Paladin howitzer during the Sept. 15 test at Yuma Proving Ground, Ariz. The projectile was successfully set with an enhanced portable inductive artillery fuze setter (EPIAFS). The U.S. Army has adapted EPIAFS into a standalone fuze setter specifically for the urgent fielding requirement. The projectile's fuze was set to function above the target, resulting in an air burst which successfully disabled the light vehicles and produced lethal effects on the simulated personnel.

This test was preceded by Excalibur tests conducted on Sept. 1, when the Excalibur program achieved another success, firing two temperature conditioned projectiles from a Paladin howitzer using MACS-4 (modular artillery charge system) charges. Both rounds deployed their canards, acquired the GPS signal (the first live-fired rounds to utilize Direct Y GPS) and completed their pre-programmed navigational maneuvers.

This series of successful tests is paving the way for Raytheon to deliver this much needed capability to soldiers and Marines within the next six months. Excalibur will offer greater lethality, increased range and lower collateral damage, while greatly reducing the logistical burden for deployed ground forces.

Defence Industry

Denel Focuses Its Top Products On Europe

In keeping with Denel's new strategic direction, announced by CEO Shaun Liebenberg last month, the Group is showcasing some of its niche defence and aerospace systems at Europe's premier defence exhibition (DSEI 2005). The show starts in London, England, this week (13 to 16 September).

With an eye on global partnerships, Denel is displaying its advanced LCT-30 combat turret in the Finnish pavilion on a Patria vehicle. This vehicle with Denel's turret forms part of the joint Denel-EADS tender for the South African Army's new generation infantry combat vehicle.

"Denel meets the prerequisites to act as a specialised contractor that could slot into the value chain of the global players, because it has a technology edge or low cost production capabilities in several niche areas," Liebenberg explained.

"The shift to mobile weapons and electronic technologies resulted in a long term move from heavy vehicles and large calibre weapons to small calibre and high-end reconnaissance systems," he said last month.

In London this week Denel also hopes to interest more customers in its sophisticated sub-systems, like its 'Eagle Eye' target location binocular and the unique pilot helmet sighting and tracking system for which Denel already has international contracts. Denel's LH-40C eyesafe laser rangefinder is also NATO certified and in use with some European armies.

Several other Denel optronics products are shown, including the 'Kenis' infrared thermal imaging camera, as well as Goshawk and LEO surveillance equipment, operated in some 20 countries around the world. Belgium's Federal Police is the latest customer to have selected Denel's LEO electro-optic stabilized airborne observation system.

Denel is also supporting Zeiss Optronik of Germany with periscope equipment for a number of foreign navies.

With Denel's proven expertise in missile technology and precision-guided weapon development, its Umkhonto IR surface-to-air missile, selected by the South African and the Finnish navies, will also be on show. Denel has recently concluded performance flight trials and live firings of the Umkhonto.

"Our 'Arachnida' weapon management system on display here, is already in service on the UK's light artillery guns and was exported in quantity to a Middle East customer," said Zwelakhe

Ntshepe, Denel's Group Marketing Director. "Denel's artillery ammunition, recognised as superior to any other on the market, is currently being evaluated in the NATO environment as well as in the United States."

Earlier this year, Denel announced a strategic alliance with Germany's Nitrochemie to develop a new generation of modular propellant charges for 105mm and 155mm artillery.

Shaun Liebenberg said the company's capabilities were attractive to global prime contractors for partnering. "I'm confident that we have set in motion a process to evaluate alliance opportunities, and DSEi 2005 gives us a further opportunity to explore these, whilst showing those niche products that could take Denel further into the international defence market, " Liebenberg concluded.

Defence Industry

UK Ministry Of Defence Awards MBDA Networked Weapons Research Contract

An industrial consortium led by MBDA has been awarded a £4M contract by the UK MoD Research Acquisition Organisation (RAO) for the NEC for Integrated Weapons research programme.

The two-year programme will concentrate on the development of new integrated technology concepts for future strike weapons operating in an NEC (Networked Enabled Capability) environment. The programme represents a key element in delivering the MoD's policy for NEC to deliver timely and precise military effects.

"This programme represents an important step in the development of new technology and concepts for knowledge creation within the UK defence industry and underpins the UK NEC policy to integrate sensors, decision makers and weapons systems for the digitised battlespace. MBDA is committed to achieving technology exploitation and pull-through from the MoD's research programme," said Steve Wadey, MBDA UK MD.

To deliver this programme MBDA has pulled together industry leaders to form a team comprising: Insys, Thales Missile Electronics, BAE SYSTEMS Land Systems, Selex Sensors and Airborne Systems, Cranfield University, Imperial College, Northrup Grumman, Ordnance Technologies and Rockwell Collins. This team approach builds on the discussions within the Guided Weapon Tower of Excellence by bringing together much of the UK guided weapons community. The Guided Weapon Tower of Excellence was set up in 2002 as part of the MoD's initiative for science and technology to establish a collective grouping of MoD and industry which would co-ordinate science and technology research plans in certain high priority areas.

Professor Andrew Baird, Head of RAO and MoD Director Technology Development (DTD) stated: “We are pleased to award this NEC for Integrated Weapons contract to the MBDA-led team. It is vital work that will assist the UK Armed Forces with their future capability to act rapidly, flexibly and to deliver precise and timely military effect. It is also an important demonstration of the MoD's commitment to work with UK Industry to research and sustain world class capabilities in key defence technologies”.

The team will work closely with several MoD departments to monitor objectives and shape the programme in accordance with MoD needs. The two-year programme will focus on advancing technology within the UK supplier base with the rapid advancement of technology readiness.

Central to this approach is the use of the MoD Architectural Framework (MoDAF) to provide an architectural framework to the programme and the development of its integrated technology concepts. The MoDAF aims to provide a rigorous way of specifying systems of systems, and is a key enabler to NEC.

The research programme will focus on four integrated technology concepts in which future strike weapons will both receive and provide important engagement information across the MoD's communications networks to provide enhanced military capability. These four concepts are aimed at addressing: the integration issues of an Adaptable Fuze and Warhead to support the re-targetting of weapons in flight; the introduction of Guidance Integrated Fuzing to improve system effectiveness and to contribute to the battle damage assessment; the investigation of Networked Targeting to reduce targeting times and flexible retargeting of munitions in flight and a Networked Homing Sensor programme to explore improvement of targeting accuracy and cost reduction by fuzing off-board sensor information with the weapon sensor.

Martin Hodgkinson, MBDA Business Director Systems Architecture, stated: "Technology Concepts developed within this research programme will be integrated and tested using MBDA's NEC Weapons Testbed to integrate models, simulations and hardware across a high bandwidth real-time network now in operation between MBDA's sites. This will allow us to explore the capability benefits associated with these new technologies in an NEC context".

Contracts

Armor Holdings, Inc. Receives $17 Million Order for Individual Body Armor Outer Tactical Vests

ATLANTA - Sept 12, 2005 - FATS, Inc. announced

today that the Defence Procurement Agency (DPA) of the United Kingdom Ministry of Defence (MOD) has awarded FATS a contract valued at approximately $4 million for additional Dismounted Close Combat Trainers (DCCT). FATS plans to complete delivery of 20 systems by the end of March 2006.

DCCT allows the training of five to 10 soldiers simultaneously with single and dual-screen systems. FATS simulated training systems use a variety of technology such as digital video and computer generated imagery that support the training of soldiers in basic to advanced marksmanship, use of force judgment, shoot/don't shoot decision-making and small unit tactical training.

These systems are used to train British military personnel who are deployed in Iraq and throughout the world. This contract is one of several involving virtual training solutions provided by FATS to the UK MOD.

FATS has delivered simulated training systems, continuous service support as well as system upgrades and improvements to the UK since 1992. FATS first supplied DCCT simulators to British military forces in 2001.

"This contract reflects the British military forces continued confidence in our technology, engineering and products," said FATS chief executive officer Ron Mohling. "It exemplifies their commitment to effective soldier training and leader development through FATS cutting-edge virtual training solutions."

Contracts

United Kingdom Ministry of Defence Signs $1.5 Million Contract with FATS,Inc.

ATLANTA - Sept 15, 2005 - The Defence Procurement Agency (DPA) of the United Kingdom Ministry of Defence (MOD) has awarded FATS a contract valued at approximately $1.5 million. This contract includes more than 90 weapon simulators that FATS will begin delivering in April 2006.

FATS will convert live-fire General Purpose Machine Guns into simulated firearms that will interface with Dismounted Close Combat Trainers (DCCT) already deployed throughout the United Kingdom. The new contract also includes FATS marksmanship courseware.

FATS DCCT trains multiple soldiers at the same time using computer generated imaging and digital video technology. DCCT supports basic to advance marksmanship, use of force judgment, shoot/don't shoot decision-making and small unit tactical training.

"FATS long-standing relationship with the UK MOD illustrates our ability to meet the demands of our military customers," said Ron Mohling, FATS chief executive officer. "Since 1992, we have manufactured and delivered more than 300 virtual training systems to the UK MOD."

This order follows a recent award by the UK MOD earlier this month for 20 new DCCT systems. To date, FATS has deployed more than 5,200 virtual training systems to more than 50 countries worldwide.

Defence Industry

FATS Receives Multiple Contracts

ATLANTA - FATS, Inc. announced today the receipt of multiple contract awards from United States Department of Defense, and law enforcement agencies with a cumulative value of $1.9 million.

These awards are for weapons, courseware, training systems and service support and have been received during the month of September. The majority of the orders were placed from FATS GSA catalog. Deliveries begin immediately.

"These orders reflect the consistent success we enjoy with our existing customer base. Return sales are a clear indication of customer satisfaction and confidence in our products and services," stated Ron Mohling, FATS Inc. chairman and chief executive officer.

Products included in these orders are basic military and law enforcement training systems, simulated small arms and crew served weapons, indirect fire training and close air support training solutions and extended service plans.

Robots

iRobot Secures NAVSEA Contract Increase for Man Transportable Robotic System

BURLINGTON, Mass., Sept. 16, 2005 iRobot Corp. has been awarded a Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) contract modification to deliver the iRobot PackBot Man Transportable Robotic System, or MTRS, robots. An initial order has been placed for 103 PackBot MTRS robots at a value of $12.1 million. iRobot could deliver up to 1,200 robots through 2012 under the indefinite-delivery/indefinite-quantity contract.

There is an urgent need for technology that can address improvised explosive devices and other deadly ordnance on the battlefield, said CDR Scott Stuart of Program Office Explosive Ordnance Disposal, PEO-LMW. The Man Transportable Robotic System has proven its life-saving value on the battlefield, and we are increasing production to counter the threats that our EOD forces face.

The PackBot MTRS is custom-built to NAVSE's specifications using the combat-proven PackBot Explosive Ordnance Device (EOD) robot as a platform. Already deployed in Iraq and Afghanistan, PackBot EOD is a rugged, lightweight robot designed to conduct explosive ordnance disposal and handle hazardous materials, search-and-surveillance and other vital tasks for military units and bomb squads.

U.S. forces in Iraq and Afghanistan are faced with increasingly sophisticated improvised explosive devices, said Vice Admiral Joe Dyer (U.S. Navy, Ret.), executive vice president and general manager of iRobot Government & Industrial Robots. The PackBot MTRS robot is designed to enable EOD forces to confront and render harmless these deadly explosives from a safe distance, whether on the battlefield or, potentially, in homeland security situations.

The PackBot MTRS is specially equipped with a variety of tools and sensors to allow EOD technicians to perform reconnaissance and disrupt unexploded ordnance and improvised explosive devices from a safe distance. In addition to the PackBot MTRS robots, the contract includes associated repair parts, logistics, training and support.

Contracts

CACI Awarded $14 Million Contract to Provide Information Assurance Support for Military Health System

Arlington, VA, -- CACI International Inc announced today that it has been awarded a four-year, $14 million task order contract to support the Military Health System (MHS) Information Assurance Program. Under the terms of the award, CACI will supply information assurance solutions to the Technology Management, Integration and Standards (TMI&S) Directorate.

The award, which has a duration of one base year and three option years, was made under the Defense Systems Integration, Design, Development, Operations and Maintenance Services (D/SIDDOMS) contract vehicle that CACI announced in December 2003. The contract increases CACI's work in military healthcare services and expands its core systems integration business area.

One of the main objectives of the TMI&S Directorate is to certify MHS information systems as meeting Department of Defense (DoD) standards for information technology security.

CACI's role includes helping to provide security management, technical services, and support for DoD certification and accreditation of MHS information systems. The company offers proven solutions for information assurance, ranging from risk assessment and threat projection and analysis, through infrastructure protection, training, disaster recovery, and the creation of computer incident response teams.

According to Paul Cofoni, CACI President of U.S. Operations, "CACI's demonstrated information assurance solutions will help the Military Health System Information Assurance Program protect its technologies and provide integrated cyber defenses. We will also provide access to our Information Assurance Technology Center, making available to our client CACI offices, laboratories, and research facilities for increased effectiveness in developing and testing information assurance solutions."

CACI Chairman, President, and CEO Dr. J.P. (Jack) London said, "The safe and secure processing of medical information for our military personnel is critical. CACI's services will help protect the data of millions of America's servicemen and women. We are proud to provide these services to the Department of Defense and look forward to additional opportunities to support the Military Health System under the D/SIDDOMS contract."

Contracts

U.S. Army Awards General Dynamics $31 Million in Combat Vehicle-Related Contracts

STERLING HEIGHTS, Mich. - The U.S. Army TACOM Lifecycle Management Command has awarded General Dynamics Land Systems, a business unit of General Dynamics, two contracts valued at $31.4 million for work related to the Abrams tank system and the Stryker combat vehicle.

The first award was a $25 million modification to an existing contract for Abrams tank systems technical support (STS). STS funds engineering studies and investigations on Abrams tanks with the purpose of identifying improvements and changing obsolete parts, while keeping Abrams tanks current to their base configuration. The STS program's objective is to maintain Abrams tanks at high operational readiness rates. Work will be performed here by existing General Dynamics employees and is expected to be complete by July 30, 2006. This modification is part of a contract initially awarded in November 2001 and brings the cumulative value to $710 million.

General Dynamics Land Systems was also awarded a $6.4 million contract modification for field service repair support to Stryker Brigade Combat Teams. Work will be performed by existing General Dynamics employees. Activities include parts procurement, labor and physical repair and should be complete by Sept. 30, 2006.

Contracts

General Dynamics Awarded $7 Million Stryker Repair Contract

STERLING HEIGHTS, Mich. - The U.S. Army TACOM Lifecycle Management Command has awarded General Dynamics Land Systems, a business unit of General Dynamics, a $7 million contract modification for Stryker combat vehicle repair work.

This award is for initial funding to quickly reset heavily used Stryker infantry combat vehicles to like-new condition following their return from operational deployment in Iraq. Work will be performed in Fort Lewis, Wash., Sterling Heights, Mich., and Anniston, Ala., by existing General Dynamics employees. Activities include parts procurement, labor and physical repair and should be complete by Sept. 30, 2006.

The contract being modified was initially awarded in May 2002 and has total cumulative value of approx. $550 million.