



Los Angeles Air Force Base Media Release



SPACE & MISSILE SYSTEMS CENTER (AFSPC)

Office of Public Affairs

483 N. Aviation Blvd.

El Segundo, CA 90245-4659

Release no: 09-12-03

Date: December 29, 2009

Contact: Media Relations Division

Telephone: (310) 653-2369/2368/2370

SBIRS Team Completes Critical Design Reviews for Follow-On Production Program for HEO and GEO Payloads

Los Angeles Air Force Base, El Segundo, Calif. -- The Air Force Space and Missile Systems Center's Space Based Infrared Systems Wing announces successful completion of critical design reviews for the SBIRS Follow-On Production program for the Highly Elliptical Orbit and Geosynchronous payloads. The SFP program is currently procuring two additional HEO payloads, HEO-3 and HEO-4, for flight on a classified host satellite and two additional GEO satellites, GEO-3 and GEO-4.

The Critical Design Review was accomplished by a joint SBIRS Wing, Lockheed Martin Space Systems, Northrop Grumman Electronics Systems and Aerospace Corporation team.

LMSS, Sunnyvale, Calif., is the prime contractor for the SBIRS program and NGES, Azusa, Calif., is the principal subcontractor for payload integration and test. The Aerospace Corporation, El Segundo, Calif., provides technical and managerial support to the Wing with the objective of achieving mission assurance, reliability, technical performance, and on-schedule delivery. The SBIRS Wing provides oversight and program management of the SFP program.

"Payload CDR culminates 21 months of effort replacing obsolete parts and implementing lessons learned from our first two GEO and HEO payloads," said Col. Scott Larrimore, commander of the SBIRS Space Group, "It is a significant step on the path to complete the SBIRS constellation and to bring the superior capabilities of two additional HEO payloads and two additional GEO satellites into the hands of the warfighters."

SBIRS is the next-generation missile early warning system designed to enhance and augment the Defense Support Program satellites. The SBIRS mission areas include missile warning, missile defense, technical intelligence and battlespace awareness.

The HEO payload consists of a single scanning sensor. The GEO payload consists of both a scanning sensor and a staring sensor. The scanning sensor provides continuous observation and surveillance of traditional intercontinental ballistic missile threats.

The SFP program completes the four satellite geosynchronous constellation and procures additional HEO systems. Procurement of payload long-lead items for the HEO-3 and GEO-3 effort began in March 2008 with the HEO-4 and GEO-4 long-lead procurement beginning in July 2009. Major sub-assemblies for the HEO-3 and GEO-3 payloads will be delivered to NGES during 2010; starting the assembly, integration and test phase for each payload. Completion of the four payloads is projected to occur between 2012 and 2014.

“This is another exciting day for the SBIRS program,” said Lt. Col. Rob Bongiovi, commander of the SBIRS Sensors Squadron. “The outstanding Lockheed Martin, Northrop Grumman, The Aerospace Corporation, and Air Force team have done a fantastic job completing the detailed design for the SBIRS Follow-on Production payloads. This milestone kicks off the manufacturing, integration and testing of the GEO-3 and HEO-3 payload hardware and ensures the next wave of SBIRS payloads continue to increase the nation’s missile warning capability.”

The SBIRS Wing develops, deploys and sustains a \$25.2-billion portfolio of surveillance satellites and associated ground control stations for the DSP and the SBIRS program. These systems detect, track and report global and theater ballistic missile attacks against the U.S., our allies, and combat forces to support warfighting decisions by combatant commanders.

Media representatives interested in speaking with a subject matter expert regarding this topic should send an e-mail to: smcpa.media@losangeles.af.mil or call 310-653 2369/2368/2479/2370

Get the latest Los Angeles Air Force Base news at www.losangeles.af.mil

‘Space and Missile Systems Center – Building the Future of Military Space Today’