



News Release

Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency

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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DARPA AWARDS FUNDING TO NORTHROP GRUMMAN

The Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) today awarded Northrop Grumman Corp., Integrated Systems, San Diego, Calif., a \$1,037,274,437 other transaction for prototypes agreement for the next five years of the X-47B portion of the Joint Unmanned Combat Air Systems (J-UCAS) demonstration program.

Under the newly awarded agreement, the Northrop Grumman team will conduct a five-year effort to design, develop and demonstrate a minimum of three full-scale, flight-worthy air vehicles and three mission control systems. The system will include integrated sensors, communication, navigation equipment and low observability features, along with a common operating system to meet mission capability objectives established by the U.S. Air Force and U.S. Navy. The targeted missions encompass suppression of enemy air defenses, penetrating surveillance in denied enemy airspace, and precision strike – all from both land and aircraft carrier bases. The system's objectives include an air vehicle combat radius of 1,500 nautical miles with a weapons payload of 4,500 pounds, electronic warning system and an integrated synthetic aperture radar. The vehicles are designed to survive in a high threat environment and feature beyond-line-of-sight network connectivity for global operations. This effort will culminate in operational experimentation and an assessment that will explore the capabilities of the X-47B in realistic mission scenarios.

Northrop Grumman heads a team that includes Lockheed Martin Corp., Palmdale, Calif., and Pratt & Whitney Military Engines Division, East Hartford, Conn.

X-47B flight demonstrations will begin in 2007 at a West Coast test site followed by catapult launches and arrested landings planned to occur at Naval Air Warfare Center Aircraft Division, Patuxent River, Md.

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