

SPACE SYSTEMS COMMAND
Media Release



SPACE SYSTEMS COMMAND
Office of Public Affairs (SSC/PA)
483 N. Aviation Blvd.
El Segundo, Calif. 90245-2808

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Contact: Media Relations Division
Telephone: (310) 653-3145
sscpa.media@spaceforce.mil

Evolved Strategic SATCOM Program Uses Innovative Competition to Drive Acquisition of Threat-Focused Software

EL SEGUNDO, Calif. -- Space Systems Command awarded two competitive prototype demonstration agreements for the Evolved Strategic SATCOM (ESS) Framework and Integration portions of the ESS ground segment, known as GRIFFON (Ground Resilient Integration & Framework for Operational NC3) on May 1. The prototype agreements, valued at \$30 million each, leverage the Space Enterprise Consortium (SpEC) Other Transaction Authority (OTA), which allows small businesses and other non-traditional vendors to form innovative teams to create cutting-edge technology and deliver capability into warfighter hands at a faster pace than acquisitions under the Federal Acquisition Regulation.

The ESS system will provide the survivable and enduring satellite communications capability for the Nuclear Command, Control, and Communications (NC3) mission in all operational environments. It will provide space and control segments for worldwide arctic DoD strategic, secure and jam-resistant, survivable communications for ground, sea and air assets around the world.

ESS is the first DoD hybrid space program that is leveraging alternate acquisition pathways for each of its segments. The ESS Space Segment is leveraging a Middle-Tier Acquisition down-select rapid prototyping contract for the ESS payload and spacecraft bus, with Boeing and Northrop Grumman in a side-by-side competition until Fiscal Year 25. The GRIFFON segment is leveraging a series of Software Acquisition Pathway contracts for subsets of mission capability in agile software sprints. The entire ESS program is designed to develop and deliver cutting edge technology to be fielded by innovative industry teams and allowing development to stay ahead of changing strategic needs.

While ESS Space continues its prototyping demonstrations with Boeing and Northrop Grumman, ESS Ground awarded contracts to two combined vendor teams. The teams are comprised of Team Lockheed Martin, which includes Stratagem, Integrity-Communications-Solutions, Infinity and BAE Systems; and Team Raytheon, which includes Dell, Seed Innovations, Infinity, Kratos, Northrop Grumman, Rocket Communications, Parsons, Polaris Alpha, Quantum Research, Koverse, Caliola Engineering, Kythera, Northstrat Inc., Optimal, RKF Engineering and Ascension Engineering.

“By openly competing modular software applications that integrate into a cyber-resilient architecture, awarding contracts to teams of vendors working together to create a cohesive industry ecosystem, and

developing it all with side-by-side end-user engagement, we ensure that not only will capability be delivered faster, but we'd also enable the ground system to be more easily updated in the future,' said Lt. Col. Laila Barasha, GRIFFON Materiel Leader. "Software is never complete, so acquiring it modularly gives us flexibility for iterative agile updates that are responsive to user needs. Industry teams focused on innovation will be able to develop and deliver the ground capability faster for future generations of warfighters."

Space Systems Command (SSC) is the U.S. Space Force field command responsible for acquiring and delivering resilient war fighting capabilities to protect our nation's strategic advantage in and from space. SSC manages an \$11 billion space acquisition budget for the Department of Defense and works in partnership with joint forces, industry, government agencies, academic and allied organizations to accelerate innovation and outpace emerging threats. Our actions today are making the world a better space for tomorrow.

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Interested media representatives may submit questions regarding this topic by sending an e-mail to sscpa.media@spaceforce.mil.



(U) Team Raytheon



(U) Team Lockheed Martin



Lt. Justin Law, a certified Supra Coder and U.S. Space Force developmental engineer, prepares to brief the Chief of Space Operations on agile software development. Together with Capt. Ronnie Rera and Lt. Becky Miller, the team developed the ESS Ground framework and integration demonstration agreements to enable software best practices. They ran the source selection for the Framework and Integration prototyping agreements within ESS Ground, planned three Industry Days with more than 400 bidders and conducted more than 80 hours of individual one-on-one industry engagements.