SPACE SYSTEMS COMMAND
Media Release

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Next-Generation Overhead Persistent Infrared Program Selects Mission Payload Suppliers

LOS ANGELES AIR FORCE BASE, Calif.—Space Systems Command's Next-Generation Overhead Persistent Infrared (Next-Gen OPIR) program is developing pacesetting Geosynchronous Earth Orbit (GEO) and Polar orbit capabilities that will deliver survivable, resilient missile warning, tracking, and defense in a highly contested and congested space domain.

On 22 Feb 2022, the Next-Gen OPIR program achieved on-time execution of the most recent milestone, in which the prime contractors for both Next-Gen OPIR GEO and Polar selected industry partners to develop and deliver the mission payloads for their upcoming missions. Lockheed Martin Space (LMS), the prime contractor for Next-Gen OPIR GEO, selected Raytheon to develop and deliver the mission payload for the third and final satellite in geostationary orbit. Northrop Grumman Space Systems (NGSS), the prime contractor for the Next-Gen OPIR Polar satellites, selected Northrup Grumman/Ball Aerospace to develop and deliver both of the mission payloads for the two satellites in polar orbit.

"These sensors are critical to our agile delivery of survivable missile warning satellites capable of detecting a broad array of known and anticipated missiles. Our adversaries continue to develop missile booster technologies that are fast burning and dimmer. Next-Gen OPIR will deliver advanced detection capability to our warfighter with exceptional resilience to prevail against enemy counter-space threats," said Col. Daniel Walter, Senior Materiel Leader for Next-Gen OPIR Space.

"Next-Gen OPIR is the cornerstone of the US integrated missile warning, tracking, and defense mission architecture, providing persistent battlespace awareness and time-critical missile warning for our nation and Allies," said Col. Brian Denaro, Program Executive Officer for Space Development. "Our Next-Gen OPIR systems will provide foundational boost phase missile warning, integrated with prototyping efforts in SSC's MEO Track Custody Demo and in

partnership with the Space Development Agency and Missile Defense Agency, ensuring mission effectiveness against advanced threats."

In total, Next-Gen OPIR will consist of three satellites in geosynchronous orbit providing coverage over mid-latitudes, and two satellites in highly elliptical orbit for coverage over the upper latitudes. The first GEO satellite remains on track for initial launch capability in 2025, while the first Polar satellite will launch in 2028.

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Space Systems Command is the U.S. Space Force field command responsible for rapidly identifying, prototyping and fielding resilient space capabilities for joint warfighters. SSC delivers sustainable joint space warfighting capabilities to defend the nation and its allies while disrupting adversaries in the contested space domain. SSC mission areas include launch acquisition and operations; space domain awareness; positioning, navigation and timing; missile warning; satellite communication; and cross-mission ground, command and control and data.

Interested media representatives may submit questions regarding this topic by sending an e-mail to sscpa.media@spaceforce.mil.
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A rendering of the Next-Gen GEO OPIR space vehicle. (*Courtesy Image by Lockheed Martin*)