Lockheed Martin Team Conducts Free-Flight Hover Test of MDA's Multiple Kill Vehicle-L

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EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE, Calif., Dec 04, 2008 /PRNewswire via COMTEX News Network/ -- Lockheed Martin (NYSE: LMT) announced today that its team successfully conducted a free-flight hover test of the U.S. Missile Defense Agency's Multiple Kill Vehicle-L. Conducted Dec. 2 at the National Hover Test Facility at Edwards Air Force Base, Calif., the test met all objectives.

During an engagement with the enemy, the MKV-L with its cargo of kill vehicles will maneuver into the threat complex to intercept all lethal targets, along with any countermeasures the enemy may deploy in an attempt to trick the system. With tracking data from the Ballistic Missile Defense System and its own seeker, the MKV-L will dispense and guide the kill vehicles to destroy multiple targets.

The full-scale prototype flew at an altitude of approximately 23 feet (7 meters) for 20 seconds, maneuvering while simultaneously tracking a target.

"This test demonstrated the integrated operation of the MKV-L in near-earth flight," said Rick Reginato, Multiple Kill Vehicle program director, Lockheed Martin Space Systems Company. "This represents a major step forward for the earliest operational payload designed to destroy multiple threat objects with a single missile defense interceptor."

The test was the first of several to prove MKV readiness for complex flight testing aboard the Ballistic Missile Defense System's ground-based interceptor currently deployed in Alaska and Southern California.

"Testing the payload in the ground-based, controlled flight environment at the National Hover Test Facility enables us to verify interoperation of components and subsystems as they are incrementally developed and integrated," said Randy Riley, MKV-L Hover Test Bed program director, Lockheed Martin Space Systems Company.

The MKV-L Hover Test Bed development team for the Missile Defense Agency includes: Lockheed Martin Space Systems Company, Sunnyvale, Calif., prime contractor; Pratt & Whitney Rocketdyne, Canoga Park, Calif.; and Octant Technologies, San Jose, Calif.

Lockheed Martin is a world leader in systems integration and the development of air and missile defense systems and technologies, including the first operational hit-to-kill missile. The company makes significant contributions to nearly all major U.S. missile defense systems and participates in several global missile defense partnerships.

Headquartered in Bethesda, Md., Lockheed Martin is a global security company that employs about 140,000 people worldwide and is principally engaged in the research, design, development, manufacture, integration and sustainment of advanced technology systems, products and services. The corporation reported 2007 sales of $41.9 billion.

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