



News Release

Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency

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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FUTURE COMBAT SYSTEMS PROGRAM TO FORM MANNED GROUND VEHICLE DESIGN TEAM

The Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) and the U.S. Army today announced the award of \$36,044,000 to the Future Combat Systems (FCS) Lead Systems Integrator (Boeing/SAIC) to form an Integrated Design Team for the manned ground vehicle portion of the FCS program.

General Dynamics Land Systems, Sterling Heights, Mich., and United Defense Limited Partnership, Arlington, Va., along with the Lead Systems Integrator, will comprise the Integrated Design Team.

The Army has determined that the design of manned ground vehicles for FCS must be initiated immediately in order to support the aggressive FCS timeline. The formation of the Integrated Design Team will reduce schedule risk, and support the Army's transformation through the additional months of design effort in preparation for the planned System Development and Demonstration decision planned for May 2003.

The demanding FCS schedule requires that the manned ground vehicle Integrated Design Team consist of industry partners with the expertise, skilled personnel and experience to immediately initiate the needed efforts. The Team will conduct common design activities in an integrated product and process environment.

FCS, the Army's flagship transformation program, is a networked "system of systems" that uses advanced communications and technologies to integrate the soldier with "families" of manned and unmanned platforms and sensors. This highly agile and lethal force will provide the tactical formations required to fulfill the Army's vision for an Objective Force.

The Lead Systems Integrator, working in partnership with the Army and DARPA, has total systems integration responsibility for the FCS program. The Lead Systems Integrator manages the identification, selection and procurement of major systems and subsystems. The LSI also assists in the development of operational, systems and technical architectures, which provide links to the Objective Force. The Lead Systems Integrator role includes leveraging applicable government and commercial activities to help the program meet its goals.

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DARPA currently manages the FCS Concept and Technology Development phase of the program. Following entry into the System Development and Demonstration phase, the U.S. Army Program Executive Officer for Ground Combat Systems will take responsibility for systems integration, production, fielding, and sustainment. The Army plans for FCS first unit equipped in 2008 and an initial operational capability in 2010.

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