



News Release

Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency

3701 North Fairfax Drive
Arlington, VA 22203-1714
www.darpa.mil/newsroom

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 30, 2009

DARPA BEGINS LONG RANGE ANTI-SHIP MISSILE PROGRAM

The Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) today awarded the first contract under the [Long Range Anti-Ship Missile \(LRASM\)](#) program. Lockheed Martin Corp., Missiles and Fire Control, Orlando, Fla., will receive \$10 million for the initial nine-month phase of the missile demonstration effort. An additional award is expected.

The joint DARPA/U.S. Navy LRASM program will provide Navy surface forces with leap-ahead anti-surface warfare capability to engage critical targets at extended ranges. Consistent with DARPA's mission to prevent technological surprise, the LRASM concept is designed to reduce dependence on precision intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance sources, data links, and GPS by demonstrating advanced onboard sensing and processing capabilities. The unprecedented capabilities will allow precision engagement of moving ships based only on coarse, initial target cueing, even in extremely hostile environments. LRASM will be compatible with the Navy Vertical Launch System and will have sufficient range to engage targets from well beyond direct counter-fire ranges of projected threats. The missile will also employ innovative features that enable it to survivably penetrate advanced air defenses and deliver high-assurance lethality.

During the program's initial phase, contractors will conduct trade studies and system performance analysis, develop a preliminary design, and perform risk reduction testing of critical elements of their system. This phase will conclude with a preliminary design review, operational effectiveness assessment, and evaluation of the technology development plan to complete the remaining DARPA demonstration program and operational transition to the Navy.

Following the initial phase, DARPA and the Navy will review results and make decisions regarding the way forward for the program, which notionally could include an additional 27 months to refine missile design, conduct subsystem developmental tests, complete a critical design review, and conduct flight tests. The program would culminate in a high-fidelity, end-to-end flight demonstration of LRASM performance. The program objective is to fly a technology demonstration system of sufficient maturity to support rapid transition to operational use.

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Media with questions, please contact Jan Walker, (703) 696-2404, or jan.walker@darpa.mil.
Contractors or military organizations, contact Rob McHenry at (703) 526-4724.