Leidos touts small cruise missile solution, announces successful test accomplishments

October 3, 2024

RESTON, Va., Oct. 3, 2024 /PRNewswire/ -- Leidos (NYSE: LDOS), an industry leader in national security and health, announced today that its Small Cruise Missile (SCM) -- nicknamed the "Black Arrow" in recognition of its range and lethality -- has successfully completed captive carry and store safe separation flight tests in preparation for guided flight tests from a U.S. Air Force Special Operations Command (AFSOC) aircraft scheduled for this fall.

Ramp launch of Leidos Small Cruise Missile from AC-130J

Store separation testing from an AC-130J, conducted in December 2023, confirmed digital twin predictions of safe separation, benign store dynamics, and trajectory characteristics. Additional captive flight testing demonstrated integration with the NSWC Battle Management System (BMS), operational flight software function, navigation performance, and flight safety system functionality.

Understanding the DOD's critical need for affordable stand-off strike capabilities, Leidos initiated work on the SCM design in 2021. In 2022, a Cooperative Research and Development Agreement (CRADA) was signed between the company and U.S. Special Operations Command (SOCOM) PEO-Fixed Wing and AFSOC. Following this agreement, the team began developing SCM, a low-cost, service-common, mission-adaptable "delivery platform" designed to facilitate future spiral upgrades for both kinetic and non-kinetic missions.

"Our experience in rapidly fielding the GBU-69 Small Glide Munition (SGM) and demonstrating the DARPA X-61 Gremlins, as well as our focus on agility and innovation, have led to achieving important milestones with our Small Cruise Missile offering," said Mark Miller, Senior Vice President for Missile and Aviation Solutions at Leidos. "We have navigated hurdles and made significant investments to integrate on, and test off, the AC-130J, preparing us to proceed with further activities once the CRADA is complete."

Leidos is leveraging model-based systems engineering, additive manufacturing, and AI optimization practices to support the timely and cost-effective development of the SCM, which aims to provide adaptability and utility for the warfighter. One example is a modular airframe and open system architecture that accommodates distributed manufacturing for individual subsystems, which can then be rapidly assembled and tested separately before final assembly. This approach has been utilized by the company's SGM program, which has delivered over 4,000 units to date.

"Affordable mass at long range is a recognized concept in the strike systems community," Miller said. "Our open architecture SCM solution is intended to integrate the best subsystem solutions, regardless of the source. We believe that recognizing that subsystems and payloads will evolve with different use cases is critical, and that innovation will come from outside typical prime contractors and venture capital companies entering the market with vertically integrated solutions."

About Leidos

Leidos is a Fortune 500® innovation company rapidly addressing the world's most vexing challenges in national security and health. The company's global workforce of 48,000 collaborates to create smarter technology solutions for customers in heavily regulated industries. Headquartered in Reston, Virginia, Leidos reported annual revenues of approximately $15.4 billion for the fiscal year ended December 29, 2023. For more information, visit www.leidos.com.

Certain statements in this announcement constitute "forward-looking statements" within the meaning of the rules and regulations of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). These statements are based on management's current beliefs and expectations and are subject to significant *risks and uncertainties.* These statements are not guarantees of future results or occurrences. *A number of factors could cause our actual results, performance, achievements, or industry results to be different from the results, performance, or achievements expressed or implied by such forward-looking statements. These factors include, but are not limited to, the "Risk Factors" set forth in Leidos' Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 29, 2023, and other such filings that Leidos makes with the SEC from time to time. Readers are cautioned not to place undue reliance on such forward-looking statements, which speak only as of the date hereof. Leidos does not undertake to update forward-looking statements to reflect the impact of circumstances or events that arise after the date the forward-looking statements were made.*

Media Contacts:

Alyssa Pettus
(571) 526-6743
alyssa.t.pettus@leidos.com

Mackenzie Hicks
(256) 964-4034
shawna.m.hicks@leidos.com

View original content to download multimedia:https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/leidos-touts-small-cruise-missile-solution-announces-successful-test-accomplishments-302266398.html

SOURCE Leidos