

Boeing Defense Space & Security  
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## 737 Airborne Early Warning and Control

### Description and Purpose:

737 Airborne Early Warning and Control (AEW&C) is a state-of-the-art system providing powerful airborne surveillance, communications and battle management.



### Customers:

The Australian Defence Force selected the 737 AEW&C system in July 1999. A contract for Project Wedgetail was signed in December 2000 for four 737-700 aircraft and six AEW&C systems plus options for three additional systems. In 2004, Australia exercised options to purchase two additional 737-700 aircraft. Two of the aircraft were modified into the AEW&C configuration at a Boeing facility in Seattle. The other four were modified by Boeing Defence Australia in a company facility at Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) base Amberley.

Five Wedgetail aircraft have been delivered and initially accepted into the RAAF fleet. All were upgraded with an Electronic Warfare (EW) suite by the end of 2011. The sixth aircraft also was completed in its final hardware configuration, including EW capabilities, at the end of 2011. Boeing will use this aircraft to complete flight tests of the mission system software. Final acceptance of all six aircraft is scheduled for the end of the first quarter of 2012.

In November 2000, the Republic of Turkey selected a Boeing-led team to begin contract negotiations on developing a new AEW&C system. A contract was signed in June 2002 and officially started in July 2003. The program, known as Peace Eagle, includes four 737 AEW&C aircraft plus ground support segments for mission crew training, mission support and system maintenance support. Mission system verification testing in the air, on the ground and in labs is under way in Seattle. Three other aircraft are being modified by Turkish Aerospace Industries in Ankara, Turkey.

Boeing signed a contract in November 2006 to provide four 737 AEW&C aircraft for the Republic of Korea's EX program, known as Peace Eye. The Boeing team's solution also includes ground support segments for flight and mission crew training, mission support and aircraft and system modification support. The first Peace Eye aircraft was delivered to the Republic of Korea Air Force in September 2011, with a second aircraft delivered in December. Two other Peace Eye aircraft, being modified by Korea Aerospace Industries in Sacheon, Korea, are scheduled for delivery in 2012.

737 AEW&C gives Korea a powerful capability for airborne surveillance, communications and battle management. It also provides increased security for the Korean peninsula against today's threats and threats in the future.

### **General Characteristics:**

- 737-700 increased gross weight (IGW) airframe
- Northrop Grumman "MESA" electronically scanned array radar system
  - 360 degrees/Air and Maritime modes/200 + nmi range/All Weather
  - IFF: 300 nmi
- Open system architecture/COTS
- 6 to 10 multi-role/purpose consoles
- Precision Tracker
- Communications include, but are not limited to, (3) HF, (4) VHF/UHF, (4) UHF and Link 11 & 16 (Customer selects encryption capability) (2) Have Quick
- Operational ceiling: 41,000 ft
- Range: 3,500 nm
- Flight Crew: 2
- Mission Crew: 6 to 10

### **Miscellaneous:**

The platform is the Boeing Next-Generation 737-700 featuring 21st century avionics, navigation equipment and flight deck. Because of its high technology, the aircraft requires minimal downtime for maintenance.

The 737 series is one of the most popular and reliable jet aircraft in the world. Its popularity has resulted in a worldwide base of suppliers, parts and support equipment. The Multi-role Electronically Scanned Array (MESA) radar is the critical sensor aboard the 737 AEW&C. The steerable beam, L-band electronically scanned array is designed to provide optimal performance in range, tracking, and accuracy. The radar is able to track airborne and maritime targets simultaneously and can help the mission crew direct the control of fighter aircraft while continuously scanning the operational area.

The so-called 'top hat' portion of the MESA radar provides a practical solution for fore and aft coverage while maintaining the low drag profile of the dorsal array system. This allows the system to be installed on the mid-size 737-700 platform without significant impact on aircraft performance. Another innovation is the integrated Identification Friend or Foe sharing of the primary radar arrays to further reduce weight, improve reliability, and simplify target correlation. In addition, the 737 AEW&C has an advanced open system architecture with a standards-based design for cost-effective commonality and maximum flexibility.

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