

Integrated Defense Systems
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PAC-3 Missile Seeker

Description and Purpose:

The PAC-3 (Patriot Advance Capability-3) Missile uses hit-to-kill technology to intercept and destroy tactical ballistic missiles, cruise missiles and hostile aircraft through direct body-to-body impact. The PAC-3 Missile seeker provides active guidance data to the missile, which enables the missile to acquire the target shortly before intercept, select the optimal aim point and initiate terminal guidance to ensure target kill.



Customer(s):

Boeing delivers PAC-3 Missile seekers to system prime contractor Lockheed Martin Missiles and Fire Control in Dallas, TX. The PAC-3 Missile system is deployed with U.S. Army and Army National Guard air defense units both overseas and domestic.

General Characteristics:

Ka-band millimeter wave seeker.

Background:

August 1999, Boeing transferred the PAC-3 Missile seeker production to Huntsville, Ala, from the Boeing facility in Duluth, Ga., as a part of a larger restructuring effort in The Boeing Company.

March 2000, Boeing completed engineering and manufacturing development “basic” seeker deliveries, marking the official beginning of the LRIP phase of the program.

Aug. 2001, Boeing completed delivery of the first 20 seekers. This delivery supported the Army’s plan for accomplishing the PAC-3 First Unit Equipped objective in late September 2001 thus allowing the initial operational deployment of the PAC-3 system to a select Army Patriot unit.

Nov. 2002, low-rate initial production (LRIP) phase I was complete with delivery of 36 seekers. Under LRIP phases II and III, Boeing delivered 112 seekers in 2003-2004.

March 2004, Boeing was awarded another contract not to exceed \$204 million for an additional 159 seekers and related tasks. The performance period of this contract is Feb. 2005-Feb. 2006.

Feb. 2005, Boeing was awarded another contract for 161 seekers and miscellaneous hardware. Terms of the contract will not be disclosed. Production on this contract is expected to continue through September 2007.

March 2006, Boeing was awarded a contract for 124 seekers and miscellaneous hardware. Production will begin in 2007.

Miscellaneous:

PAC-3 Missile system development testing was completed in October 2001 and operational testing was completed in May 2002. Mission success was unprecedented with ten out of 14 successful intercepts and 100% seeker performance. The Army continues to schedule periodic flight tests of the system incorporating software and hardware enhancements. The most recent flight test, Sept. 17, 2008, demonstrated a successful intercept using the first Japanese PAC-3.

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