Satellite Systems Businesses

OVERVIEW

Network & Space Systems’ satellite businesses, headquartered in El Segundo, Calif., are the company’s center for all intelligence systems and government and commercial satellite systems. Boeing offers end-to-end intelligence services and has competency in large-scale systems integration; intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance systems; and navigation and communication systems. The world's first geosynchronous communications satellite, Syncom, was built by Boeing and launched in 1963. Since Syncom, the company has delivered satellites to 50 customers in 20 countries. Boeing satellites are built at its Satellite Development Center in El Segundo, the world's largest satellite manufacturing factory.

KEY BUSINESS AREAS

Boeing develops and produces state-of-the-art space and communications systems for military, commercial and scientific uses. These systems supply communications and meteorological observation technology for domestic and international customers and meet many of the military and civil space system requirements of the U.S. government.

Commercial Satellite Systems oversees the design, integration and testing of communications satellites and payloads for commercial telecommunications, scientific and environmental applications.

Current programs include the Mexsat satellite communications system, Inmarsat-5, Intelsat, ABS and Eutelsat, SES-9, SES-15 and ViaSat-2. Boeing spacecraft routinely relay digital communications, mobile communications, Internet connectivity, telephone calls, video conferences, television programming and direct-to-home entertainment.

Boeing Commercial Satellite Services (BCSS) was formed in 2011. BCSS develops innovative solutions for satellite customers by marketing commercial satellite telecommunications services to the U.S. government and other satellite users. The initial target market for BCSS is the U.S. government; future plans include teaming with commercial satellite operators to provide other types of customized communications capacity, including services to foreign governments.
Government Space Systems manages the company’s major government satellite programs for civil and military communications and national defense. These include the Wideband Global SATCOM system comprising the U.S. Department of Defense’s highest-capacity military communications satellites; the Global Positioning System IIF delivering advanced navigation services to modernize the constellation; and NASA’s Tracking and Data Relay Satellites, TDRS K, L and M. Boeing, in partnership with Ball Aerospace, also provided the Space Based Space Surveillance (SBSS) system, the only space-based sensor in the U.S. Air Force Space Surveillance Network with the ability to detect distant space objects regardless of weather, atmosphere, or time of day.

In addition, Boeing is the prime contractor for the X-37B Orbital Test Vehicle, an unmanned space vehicle that will be used by the U.S. Air Force to explore reusable space vehicle technologies in support of long-term space objectives. Objectives of the X-37B program include space experimentation, risk reduction, and concept of operations development.

The company’s Spectrolab subsidiary is the world’s leading manufacturer of space solar cells and panels. Spectrolab’s product portfolio includes concentrator solar cells and modules, searchlight systems (Nightsun® series), solar simulators and Photodetector products. Spectrolab established its credibility in the space industry in 1958 with Pioneer 1, which carried the company’s first body-mounted solar panels into space. That tradition continues today with NASA’s two Mars Exploration Rovers, which use Spectrolab’s improved triple-junction solar cells for power as they conduct missions on the Red Planet.

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