

# Medium Extended Air Defense System (MEADS)

Provides low-to-medium altitude air and missile defense to maneuver forces and other land component commanders' designated critical assets for all phases of tactical operations.



## DESCRIPTION AND SPECIFICATIONS

The Medium Extended Air Defense System (MEADS) weapon system will use its netted and distributed architecture to ensure joint and allied interoperability, and to enable a seamless interface to the next generation of battle management command, control, communications, computers, and intelligence (BMC4I). The system's improved sensor components and its ability to link other airborne and ground-based sensors facilitate the employment of its battle elements.

MEADS provides a robust 360-degree defense using the PAC-3 hit-to-kill missile against the full spectrum of theater ballistic missiles, anti-radiation missiles, cruise missiles, unmanned aerial vehicles, tactical air-to-surface missiles, rotary, and fixed wing threats. MEADS will also provide:

- Defense against multiple and simultaneous attacks by short-range ballistic missiles, low-radar cross-section cruise missiles, and other air-breathing threats
- Immediate C-130 and C-17 deployment for early entry operations, and lift capability by CH-47 helicopters and Marine Corps Landing Craft Air Cushion and Landing Craft Utility
- Mobility to displace rapidly and protect maneuver forces assets during offensive operations
- Netted, distributed, and open architecture and modular components to increase survivability and flexibility of employment in a number of operational configurations
- A significant increase in firepower with the PAC-3 missile with greatly reduced requirements for manpower, maintenance, and logistics

Given these characteristics, MEADS can rapidly respond to a variety of crisis situations and satisfy the needs of the joint and allied operational and tactical commanders.

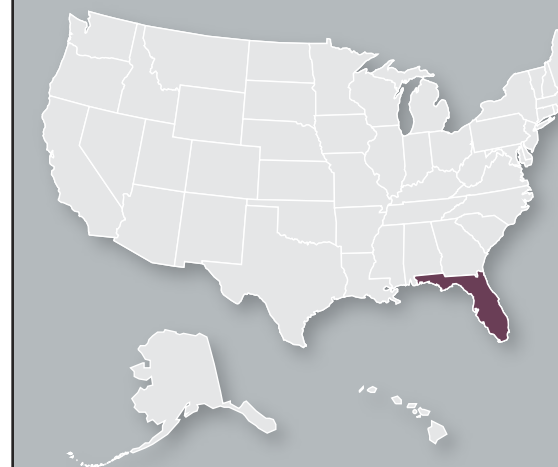
The MEADS weapon system's objective battle management tactical operations center (TOC) will provide the basis for the future common air and missile defense (AMD) TOC, leveraging modular battle elements and a distributed and open architecture to facilitate continuous exchange of information to support a more effective AMD system of systems.

## PROGRAM STATUS

- **3QFY04** Combined aggregate program (CAP) approved for entry into system development and demonstration (SDD). CAP Milestone B review
- **4QFY04** CAP approved for entry into the SDD phase; acquisition decision memorandum issued
- **4QFY04** Risk reduction phase complete
- **4QFY04** U.S. and Italy signed memorandum of understanding (MOU) for SDD
- **4QFY04** SDD letter contract awarded
- **1QFY05** SDD contract definitization
- **1QFY05** Germany to sign MOU

## PROJECTED ACTIVITIES

- **3QFY05** System requirements review



## CONTRACTORS

MEADS International is a multinational joint venture headquartered in Orlando, Florida. MEADS International's participating companies are MBDA-Italia, the European Aeronautic Defence and Space Company (EADS) and Lenkflugkorpersysteme (LFK) in Germany, and Lockheed Martin in the United States.

## INVESTMENT COMPONENT

Modernization

## ACQUISITION PHASE

- System Development and Demonstration