

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.

INVESTMENT COMPONENT

Modernization

Recapitalization

Maintenance



Description & Specifications

The Medium Extended Air Defense System (MEADS) provides a robust, 360-degree defense using the PAC-3 hit-to-kill Missile Segment Enhancement (MSE) against the full spectrum of theater ballistic missiles, anti-radiation missiles, cruise missiles, unmanned aerial vehicles, tactical air-to-surface missiles, and 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 use in a number of operational configurations
- A significant increase in firepower with the PAC-3 MSE, with greatly reduced requirements for manpower, maintenance, and logistics

The 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.

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

- **1QFY06:** Integrated baseline review
- **1QFY07:** Launcher system requirement review
- **1QFY07:** Launcher system requirement review

Projected Activities

- **2QFY07–3QFY07:** Major end items preliminary design review (PDR)
- **4QFY07:** System PDR
- **1QFY10:** System critical design review

ACQUISITION PHASE

Concept & Technology Development

System Development & Demonstration

Production & Deployment

Operations & Support

Medium Extended Air Defense System (MEADS)

FOREIGN MILITARY SALES

None

CONTRACTORS

MEADS International is a multinational joint venture headquartered in Orlando, FL. 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

