

BAE Systems Awarded \$164 Million Navy Design contract for Vertical Launch System



An SM-2 telemetry surface to air missile is launched from the forward vertical launch system of the Ticonderoga-class guided-missile cruiser USS Shiloh (CG 67) while conducting a live-fire exercise in 2020. *U.S. NAVY / Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Ryre Arciaga*

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn. – BAE Systems, Inc. has won a U.S. Navy competition to serve as the design agent for the mechanical portion of the Mk41 Vertical Launch System (VLS), the company said in a May 18 release. With this \$164 million award, BAE Systems will provide design and support of the system that is embedded in cruisers and destroyers and launches a wide arsenal of offensive and defensive missiles.

The contract calls for BAE Systems to provide design, development, test, product improvement, and sustaining support for current and legacy VLS systems. BAE Systems will also continue to design and support canisters used to store, transport, and launch the missiles from the VLS.

“This award demonstrates that BAE Systems is an industry leader when it comes to the VLS solution for the Navy’s fleet of Ticonderoga-class cruisers and Arleigh Burke-class destroyers,” said Brent Butcher, vice president of the weapon systems product line at BAE Systems. “Going forward this contract secures our role in providing the Navy with cutting-edge design and engineering supporting this critical warfighting capability.”

The Mk41 VLS is capable of launching a broad range of missiles, including the Standard Missile SM-2, SM-3, and SM-6 variants; the Tomahawk Land Attack Cruise Missile; the

NATO Seasparrow and Evolved Seasparrow; and the Vertical Launch Anti-Submarine Rocket.

The Mk 41 VLS is also deployed with the navies of Australia, Canada, Germany, Japan, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, South Korea, Spain, and Turkey.

Work on this contract begins immediately and will primarily be performed in Minneapolis, Minnesota.