Boeing Garners Second U.S. Navy Contract for F/A-18 Service Life Modification



An F/A-18F Super Hornet launches off the flight deck of the aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72). Boeing has received a one-year contract, with an option for a second year, to continue modernizing the F/A-18. U.S. Navy/Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Jeff Sherman

ST. LOUIS –

Boeing has received a one-year contract to continue modernizing the U.S. Navy's F/A-18 fleet under the Service Life Modification (SLM) program, the company said in a May 17 release.

The $164 million contract for fiscal 2019, which also includes a one-year option for 2020, funds the standup of a second SLM line in San Antonio, Texas, complementary to the line established last year in St. Louis.

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"The Service Life Modification program is making great strides as we've already inducted seven Super Hornets into the program and will deliver the first jet back to the Navy later this year," said Dave Sallenbach, the program's

director. “This program is crucial in helping the Navy with its readiness challenges and will continue to grow each year with the number of jets we induct.”

The San Antonio SLM line is scheduled to receive its first Super Hornet in June and a total of 23 Super Hornets over the course of this contract. The U.S. Navy fleet consists of more than 550 Super Hornets.

The SLM program extends the life of existing Super Hornets from 6,000 to 10,000 flight hours.

In the early 2020s, Boeing is scheduled to begin installing initial updates to the aircraft that will convert existing Block II Super Hornets to a new Block III configuration.

The Block III conversion will include enhanced network capability, longer range with conformal fuel tanks, an advanced cockpit system, signature improvements and an enhanced communications system. The updates are expected to keep the F/A-18 in active service for decades to come.