# GDIT Awarded $1.5B Enterprise IT Modernization Contract to Strengthen STRATCOM Readiness


*Company will leverage digital engineering, AI, and cyber capabilities to enhance strategic deterrence, including critical nuclear command and control systems*

From General Dynamics Information Technology, Sept 25, 2025

FALLS CHURCH, Va. – General Dynamics Information Technology (GDIT), a business unit of General Dynamics (NYSE:GD), announced today that it was awarded an enterprise IT modernization contract to strengthen the U.S. Strategic Command's (STRATCOM) operational readiness. The new $1.5 billion contract, awarded in May, covers a one-year base period and six option years.

STRATCOM oversees the nation's strategic deterrence, global strike, nuclear command and control, and electromagnetic spectrum operations around the world. To support its global missions, STRATCOM requires a cutting-edge enterprise IT network environment that connects data and systems to national decision makers and mobile warfighters.

Under this contract, GDIT will leverage its digital engineering capabilities to cut costs, increase efficiency and enhance collaboration among mission partners. The company will also integrate artificial intelligence/machine learning technologies into STRATCOM's enterprise data to empower decision makers to act quickly. Additionally, GDIT will transition STRATCOM to a new hybrid cloud environment to enable greater flexibility and scalability. To protect the combatant command's networks and their data from evolving cyber threats, the company will also implement advanced cyber and zero trust solutions.

"Modernizing STRATCOM's IT capabilities is critical to protecting our national security and maintaining our strategic deterrence edge," said Brian Sheridan, GDIT's senior vice president for Defense. "We look forward to delivering a secure, agile and resilient network that enables our warfighters to be better connected, informed and ready."

The award further expands the company's mission-critical IT services for combatant commands. GDIT also provides digital

modernization services for the U.S. Central Command as well as technical and mission support services for the U.S. Special Operations Command.

---

# Boeing to Relocate F/A-18 Service Life Modification Work to Support St. Louis Site Expansion


*The program will be relocated starting in 2026 with all St. Louis based work ending in 2027*

From Boeing

ST. LOUIS, Sept. 24, 2025 – As part of Boeing's [NYSE: BA] expansion and transition plans to support future programs, the company is relocating its F/A-18 Super Hornet Service Life Modification (SLM) work out of the St. Louis region and will sunset the St. Louis based work in 2027.

Boeing is considering multiple sites to transfer the work to with case studies starting at the San Antonio and Jacksonville

sites. Boeing currently performs SLM work in San Antonio and in partnership with the U.S. Navy at Fleet Readiness Center (FRC) Southwest in San Diego, Calif. Additional F/A-18 modification work also occurs in Jacksonville, Fla.

An upgraded SLM F/A-18 Super Hornet departs St. Louis heading back to the U.S. Navy fleet. This fighter is equipped with Block III capabilities.
Photo Credit / Art Credit: Boeing

“Our expansion plans across the St. Louis site triggered the execution of a multi-year strategic plan, requiring the relocation of some work,” said Dan Gillian, vice president and general manager of Air Dominance and senior St. Louis site executive. “Given we are already successfully conducting SLM at other locations, this move is logical so we can continue to meet our customers commitments while ensuring we are well poised for future work.”

The St. Louis region is home to F-15EX, T-7A and MQ-25 production as well as JDAM and other munitions production lines. In March, the U.S. Air Force announced Boeing will design, build and deliver the F-47 6$^{th}$ generation fighter. Current St. Louis SLM team members will support these programs.

Super Hornet is the backbone of the Navy’s strike fighter inventory, and SLM is critical to supporting the U.S. Navy’s readiness needs. SLM adds Block III capabilities and 4,000 flight hours to existing Navy Super Hornets. Since the program began, Boeing and the Navy have increased inductions each year while improving the turnaround time of the fighters. This work is projected to continue through the mid-2030s. All Block II Super Hornets can be upgraded to the Block III capability suite through SLM.

“We have worked with the Navy for years to improve SLM while growing in San Antonio and FRC Southwest. Delivering multiple

fighters and capabilities from multiple locations is what we do, and we will continue that work on the Super Hornets for the life of the fleet," said Mark Sears, Boeing Fighters vice president.

---

# Coast Guard Prepares for Aircraft Fleet Expansions with Awards for Engines, Radar


A rescue swimmer from U.S. Coast Guard Air Station Astoria dangles below an MH-60 Jayhawk helicopter as it hovers above Elliott Bay near Seattle, Washington, Aug. 1, 2023. The demonstration was part of the Parade of Ships for the annual

Seafair festival. (U.S. Coast Guard photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class Steve Strohmaier)
Release From Headquarters, U.S. Coast Guard

WASHINGTON — The Coast Guard recently completed contract actions aimed at accelerating delivery of new MH-60 medium-range recovery helicopters and HC-130J long-range surveillance aircraft and expanding mission capabilities of the expanded aviation fleet.

On Sept. 8, the Coast Guard placed a $14.3 million order for delivery of 13 General Electric T700 engines for its MH-60 helicopter fleet. On Sept. 18, the Service contracted with L3 Harris Technologies Inc. for delivery of three AN/APY-11 multi-mode radar systems, valued at $13.9 million, to be installed on future HC-130Js during the Minotaur missionization process.

Both orders were made possible due to investments in the Coast Guard fleet made by the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA).

The T700 engines are among the long lead-time components needed to grow the Coast Guard's MH-60 fleet and expedite transition of several air stations from the MH-65E to the MH-60. The MH-60's range, speed, payload and avionics and sensors suite make it a capable platform for all 11 Coast Guard missions. The aircraft's ability to locate, identify and track surface targets day or night makes it a valuable search and rescue and law enforcement asset. Transition of air stations is necessary to sustain rotary wing capability as the MH-65E continues to face supportability issues driven by a diminishing supply base for an out-of-production aircraft.

The AN/APY-11 radar system was chosen as the optimal multi-mode radar to enhance operational effectiveness as part of the Minotaur Mission System Suite. The Minotaur Mission System enables the collection and correlation of sensor and track data, which is used to conduct drug and alien interdictions,

search and rescue, and other statutory missions.

The Coast Guard's long-range surveillance fleet is a proven asset vital to control, secure and defend the U.S. border and maritime approaches, facilitate commerce vital to economic prosperity, and respond to crises and contingencies. The Coast Guard HC-130J fleet is the Department of Homeland Security's airlift asset and can provide critical support to DHS partners in response to national events as well as logistical support during routine operations.

The OBBBA includes more than $3.3 billion to expand the Coast Guard's HC-130J and MH-60 fleets. Nearly $2.3 billion is for the production and fielding of new MH-60 aircraft and delivery of multiple simulators. Approximately $1.1 billion is for production and missionization of six additional HC-130J aircraft, along with associated spare parts and the service's first HC-130J simulator

---

# Raytheon, Avio USA Expand Collaboration to Accelerate Mk 104 Rocket Motor Production

Release From RTX

ARLINGTON, Va. (September 24, 2025) – Raytheon, an RTX (NYSE: RTX) business, and Avio USA have executed a purchase order for funding of up to $26 million for continued engineering work on the Mk 104 dual-thrust rocket motor to support Raytheon's Standard Missile franchise.

The purchase order comes 13 months after the businesses signed a contract for preliminary engineering work on the Mk 104 rocket motor. This project secures funding through the Critical Design Review phase, procurement of long lead material for qualification, and will enable increased and accelerated capacity for solid rocket motor production.

“This purchase order represents an important step in expanding our supply chain to ensure the resilience and availability of the Mk 104 rocket motor,” said Barbara Borgonovi, president of Naval Power at Raytheon. “By strategically implementing second sourcing for critical materials, we are not only enhancing our ability to meet customer demand but also strengthening our production capacity for the Standard Missile franchise.”

Prior to this purchase order, the companies successfully completed both a System Requirements Review and Preliminary Design Review, establishing a solid foundation for the next phases of development and production.

“We are proud to continue our work on Mk 104, which is so critical to the United States and our allies,” said VADM (Ret.) James Syring, CEO, Avio USA. “We look forward to advancing the motor through full qualification and into production in the future.”

“Avio is happy to support Avio USA on the Mk 104 activities, providing its longstanding expertise on SRM engineering, material characterization, laboratory and fire testing, sourcing and motor integration with the aim to ultimately support Raytheon’s accelerated ability to deliver to their end customers,” said Giulio Ranzo, CEO of Avio SpA.

# Blue Water Autonomy Taps Conrad Shipyard to Build Autonomous Surface Vessels

From Blue Water Autonomy, Sept. 24, 2025

*Post-Series A milestone marks shift from R&D to real-world scale and signals new life for American shipyards*

BOSTON, Sept. 24, 2025 /PRNewswire/ — **Blue Water Autonomy**, the Boston-based technology and shipbuilding company designing and building highly producible unmanned ships for the U.S. Navy, today announced it has entered into a production agreement with **Conrad Shipyard**, a premier Gulf Coast shipbuilder headquartered in Louisiana. The partnership marks a major step forward in Blue Water's plan to deploy autonomous surface vessels at fleet scale.

The news comes just weeks after Blue Water announced its Series A, bringing the company to $61 million raised to date, and reflects the company's continued momentum in building operationally ready, scalable unmanned ships that meet near-term defense priorities.

"We're designing for deployment, not just demonstration," said Rylan Hamilton, co-founder and CEO of Blue Water Autonomy. "Conrad is a world-class shipbuilder with proven capability, and this partnership puts us in a position to deliver ships quickly, while demonstrating the expertise and scale of existing U.S. shipbuilding capacity."

Under the agreement, Conrad will assemble Blue Water's first class of autonomous ships. Conrad plans to use multiple facilities to take advantage of its advanced shipbuilding approach, including highly automated panel line and welding techniques, allowing for parallel builds and scalable

throughput.

“Blue Water Autonomy’s design reflects the kind of forward-looking innovation that U.S. shipbuilders are ready to deliver,” said Cecil Hernandez, President and CEO of Conrad Shipyard. “We’re proud to support this program and help bring autonomous naval capabilities to life with the speed, precision, and craftsmanship we’ve been trusted to deliver for over 75 years across commercial and military shipbuilding.”

Blue Water’s partnership with Conrad comes on the heels of consecutive senior shipbuilding hires to build internal capability. Earlier this year, the company hired Tim Glinatsis, a 25-year veteran of General Dynamics NASSCO and Bath Iron Works, followed by multiple hires from the DARPA NOMARS autonomous ship program, including marine engineering lead Ryan Maatta.

U.S. Industrial Base: Ready to Build

This milestone also reflects the company’s broader strategy to activate underutilized U.S. shipyard capacity, particularly small and mid-tier yards that can adapt quickly to new platforms.

“We’ve designed our vessels to be modular, producible, and buildable across the country,” said Hamilton. “What we’re proving with Conrad is just the start. We want to show that the U.S. has the infrastructure to support autonomy at scale, and the talent to build it.”

Blue Water is focused on working with U.S. shipyards that are fully operational today, shipyards like Conrad, that are proven in both commercial and military shipbuilding and can deliver with speed, scale, and precision. Unlike manned warships, which often require years-long timelines and specialized build environments, Blue Water’s platform is intended to be produced, updated, and maintained with speed and flexibility in mind.

# U.S., ROK Navies Conduct CONSOL During Freedom Edge 25

AT SEA (Sept. 18, 2025) – Republic of Korea's Cheonji-class fast combat support ship ROKS Daecheong (AOE-58) connects its fuel line to Military Sealift Command's commercial charter oiler MT Allied Pacific during a consolidated cargo replenishment (CONSOL) at sea, Sept. 18, in support of Freedom Edge 2025. CONSOL capability is when a specially outfitted MSC-controlled tanker conducts underway refueling operations, transferring fuel and/or cargo to combat logistics-force ships at sea. (Courtesy photo)

by Grady T. Fontana, Sept. 24, 2025

AT SEA – Military Sealift Command's (MSC) commercial charter oiler motor tanker (MT) Allied Pacific conducted a consolidated cargo replenishment (CONSOL) at sea with Republic of Korea's (ROK) Cheonji-class fast combat support ship ROKS

Daecheong (AOE-58), Sept. 18, in support of Freedom Edge 25.

Freedom Edge highlights trilateral defense cooperation between the United States, Japan, and the Republic of Korea, demonstrating their ability to achieve peace through strength on the Korean Peninsula and across the Indo-Pacific.

“Every CONSOL with allies and partners demonstrate not just technical proficiency, but the trust and interoperability at the heart of our alliance,” said U.S. Navy Capt. David L. Reyes, commodore, MSC Far East. “It’s important that we continue to build on these efforts—each evolution strengthens our ability to operate together and ensures the fleet remains lethal, resilient and ready in the Indo-Pacific.”

A CONSOL allows a specially outfitted MSC-controlled tanker to conduct underway refueling and cargo transfer operations with combat logistics force (CLF) ships at sea. This capability reduces the need for CLF ships to return to shore for resupply, cutting costs and maximizing time on station to support the fleet.

According to contracted mariner Capt. Edward Markuske, master of MT Allied Pacific, his crew appreciated the opportunity to work with ROK allies.

“They were very professional and committed to completing the mission while alongside our vessel,” said Markuske. “I hope we get more opportunities to work together with our allies in the Far East, because these joint exercises are integral to our ability to work together going forward. Our ship’s crew appreciates the sense of purpose that comes from being on mission and a job well done.”

This evolution builds on a previous CONSOL between Allied Pacific and Daecheong in June 2025, expanding the ROK Navy’s capacity to sustain fleet operations at sea with fuel, cargo, and stores.

“Collaborating with our international partners to conduct CONSOL exercises enhances the training of our commercial chartered vessels,” said Peter P. Bok, marine transportation specialist, MSC Far East. “The professional development provided to civilian mariners ensures they are prepared to address any potential challenge and maintain peak operational readiness, thereby supporting our Navy’s effectiveness during times of conflict, and help ensure their lethality.”

MSC Far East supports the U.S. 7th Fleet and ensures approximately 50 ships in the Indo-Pacific Region are manned, trained, and equipped to deliver essential supplies, fuel, cargo, and equipment to warfighters, both at sea and on shore. U.S. 7th Fleet is the U.S. Navy’s largest forward-deployed numbered fleet and routinely interacts and operates with allies and partners in preserving a free and open Indo-Pacific region.

---

# Successful Trident II D5 Life Extension Launches Demonstrate Readiness of Sea-Based Deterrent

ATLANTIC OCEAN (Sept. 17-21, 2025) – An unarmed Trident II D5 Life Extension (D5LE) missile launches from an Ohio-class ballistic missile submarine (SSBN) off the coast of Florida. (Photo by Shelby Thompson)
From April Crew-Kelly, Navy Strategic Systems Progams Public Affairs, Sept. 23, 2025

ATLANTIC OCEAN – The U.S. Navy's Strategic Systems Programs conducted four scheduled missile test flights of unarmed Trident II D5LE missiles from an Ohio-class ballistic missile submarine off the east coast of Florida from September 17-21. One launch test event Sunday evening lit up the night sky and was visible from Puerto Rico.

Flight tests are conducted on a recurring, scheduled basis to evaluate and ensure the continued reliability and accuracy of the system. The missile tests were not conducted in response to any ongoing world events.

These test flights were part of a planned test event and resulted in the achievement of 197 total successful missile flight test launches of the Trident II D5 strategic weapon system. The test flights were launched from a submerged SSBN and landed in a broad ocean area of the Atlantic Ocean. As

part of standard safety requirements, Notice to Airmen (NOTAMs) were issued identifying no-fly zones and Notice to Mariners (NOTMARs) were issued to sea-going vessels identifying stay-out areas for the pre-scheduled test period.

The Trident II D5 strategic weapon system is a highly accurate and reliable weapon system. The D5 missiles were originally developed in the 1980s, and a life-extension refresh was completed in 2017 to extend the service life of the system to the 2040s.

“Our Nation’s submarine launched ballistic missile system has been a critical component of our national security since the 1960s, and these launches continue to demonstrate the credibility and reliability of our strategic deterrence capabilities,” said Vice Adm. Johnny R. Wolfe, Director of the Navy’s Strategic Systems Programs, the command responsible for the Navy’s strategic weapons.

A credible, effective strategic deterrent is essential to our national security and the security of U.S. allies. U.S. strategic weapons capabilities deter aggression and assure our allies by providing unique deterrence effects no other element of U.S. military power can replace.

“For the dedicated SSP team, maintaining our current capability and actively demonstrating through flight testing that the system is ready to respond if called upon is central to ensuring our nation’s Peace through Strength. The team is also pushing ahead developing the next generation strategic weapon system to ensure the sea-based deterrence capability of tomorrow,” Wolfe said.

Strategic Systems Programs is the Navy command providing cradle-to-grave lifecycle support for the sea-based leg of the nation’s nuclear Triad. This includes training, systems, equipment, facilities and personnel responsible for ensuring

the safety, security, and effectiveness of the nation’s Submarine Launched Ballistic Missile (SLBM) Trident II D5LE strategic weapon system deployed on Ohio-class SSBNs.

---

# USS John L. Canley Arrives in Palau During Pacific Partnership 2025

KOROR, Palau (Sept. 22, 2025) The Lewis B. Puller-class expeditionary sea base USS John L. Canley (ESB 6), arrives in Koror, Palau in support of Pacific Partnership 2025, Sept. 22, 2025. Now, in its 21st iteration, the Pacific Partnership series is the largest annual multinational humanitarian assistance and disaster management preparedness mission conducted in the Indo-Pacific. Pacific Partnership works

collaboratively with host and partner nations to enhance regional interoperability and disaster response capabilities, increased security and stability in the region, and foster new and enduring friendships in the Indo-Pacific. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Jordan Jennings)
KOROR, Palau – The Lewis B. Puller-class expeditionary sea base USS John L. Canley (ESB 6) arrived in Koror, Palau Sept. 22, 2025.

“It’s wonderful for our mission to return to Palau, where we look forward to working alongside our multinational allies, partners, and friends as we prepare in calm for possible future time of crisis,” said Capt. Mark B. Stefanik, mission commander for Pacific Partnership. “It’s exciting to be here, as our nations share a rich history of collaboration and cultural ties. We look forward to strengthening that mutual cooperation and friendship in the days and years ahead.”

Pacific Partnership mission includes stops in the Federated States of Micronesia, Papua New Guinea, Chuuk, Pohnpei, Palau, Samoa, Fiji, Vanuatu and the Philippines.
“I’m excited to collaborate with the pharmacy staff in Palau, who are asking excellent clinical questions and showing strong engagement,” said Lt. Kamara Gray, pharmacist with the Pacific Partnership medical team. “One area I am particularly looking forward to is antimicrobial stewardship, training on how to use antibiotics appropriately, including knowing the right time to transition from oral to intravenous treatments. I’m also eager to learn about the antibiotics that are no longer effective here due to resistance.”

Pacific Partnership fosters multilateral cooperation and emphasizes a multinational and whole-of-government approach by planning and executing operations with partner nation militaries, host nation civilian agencies, international organizations, non-governmental organizations, the U.S. State Department, U.S. interagency, and other U.S military service branches. This subsequently provides a strong foundation of

trust and enhances our collective ability to respond in times of crisis.

In the aftermath of the December 2004 tsunami that devastated parts of South and Southeast Asia, the United States mobilized numerous military assests and personnel to support the relief effort. Recognizing the opportunity to build on the goodwill and lessons learned from Pacific Partnership began as a military-led humanitarian response to one of the world's most catastrophic natural disasters. Building on the success and goodwill and lessons learned from that initial mission, the U.S. Navy planned and executed the inaugural Pacific Partnership mission in 2006; its primary aim was to proactively prepare for a more effective response to natural disasters while strengthening relationships and security ties between nations.

Pacific Partnership, now in its 21st iteration, is the largest multinational humanitarian and civic assistance mission conducted in the Indo-Pacific. Each year, the mission team works alongside partners and allies to strengthen relationships, bolster host nation capacity to provide essential humanitarian services, and support efforts to reduce the risk of, prepare for, and respond to disasters. The PP25 team is led by U.S. Navy Capt. Mark B. Stefanik, commander of Destroyer Squadron (DESRON) 31, serving as the mission commander.

---

# Marine Corps Announces

# Project Dynamis to Accelerate AI-Powered Decision Advantage

From Communications Directorate, Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps, Sept. 23, 2025

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen. Christopher J. Mahoney, signed a memorandum Sept. 10 to formally establish Project Dynamis, an initiative to accelerate the modernization of Marine Corps contributions to Combined Joint All-Domain Command and Control (CJADC2) in partnership with the Department of the Navy's Project Overmatch.

This effort is aligned with the Marine Corps' broader Force Design concept with a specific focus on developing end-to-end, joint interoperable capabilities that enable Marines to act as the forward element of the Joint Force—sensing, making sense, and communicating weapons quality data at the speed and scale of relevance.

The memorandum established a 3-star council comprised of the Deputy Commandant for Combat Development and Integration (DC CD&I) and the Deputy Commandant for Information (DC I) to govern the project.

"The Marine Corps has been moving fast to modernize for the future," said Lt. Gen. Jerry Carter, DC I. "To outpace the threat, we realized we needed a dedicated cross-functional team laser focused on prioritizing and accelerating the deployment of advanced technologies to enable AI-powered decision advantage at the tactical edge. That's what Project Dynamis does in partnership with the Navy's Project Overmatch."

The memorandum tasks the council to present an initial plan and a charter for governance, organization, authorities, and

responsibilities within 30 days. The ACMC has also tasked the council to coordinate with the Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research, Development and Acquisitions to designate a USMC Deputy Direct Report Program Manager within Project Overmatch.

Colonel Arlon Smith has been appointed as the Director of Project Dynamis.

“As Marines, our ability to aggregate, orchestrate, analyze, and share fused data at machine speeds is a warfighting imperative,” said Smith. “It is central to our value proposition. Project Dynamis is our bid for success to realize that vision.”

Although it had not yet been formally established, Project Dynamis already helped orchestrate the Marine Corps’ recent enterprise-level contract with Maven Smart System and was integral in September deployments of a Marine Air-Ground Task Force Command and Control Prototype (MCP) to the 12th Marine Littoral Regiment in Okinawa, Japan and the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit in Camp Pendleton.

---

# Honeywell Successfully Demonstrates Counter Swarm Drone Technology to Military Operators


PHOENIX, Sept. 22, 2025 – Honeywell (NASDAQ: HON) announced it has successfully showcased its Stationary and Mobile UAS Reveal and Intercept system (SAMURAI) and its ability to counter swarm drones in two recent demonstrations to local military operators in the United States. The system was utilized in a format in which it can be operated directly from a ground vehicle. Key elements were also demonstrated from an aerostat at more than 1,000 feet above the ground.

“Swarm drones pose increasing risks to high-value assets – as a result, the ability to detect, track and counter them is a crucial part of modern military operations,” said Matt Milas, president, Defense and Space, Honeywell Aerospace Technologies. “Our recent successful demonstrations not only provided strong examples of how Honeywell’s SAMURAI system can provide critical capabilities on the battlefield, but they also proved the technology is highly reliable, scalable and ready to integrate into existing defensive systems.”

Using Model Based System Engineering (MBSE), the SAMURAI system provides a turnkey solution that integrates customer-selected detectors and effectors and meets Modular Open Systems Approach (MOSA) compliance standards for customer modeling, visibility and sustainment. It is designed to be easily operated by security forces or tower personnel. Honeywell also demonstrated the ability for rapid integration for new detectors and effectors to support operator requirements.

With the Honeywell system, military operators can save time and money by optimizing prior investments into key components and integrating them into the overall solution. The system's reliability is also key – Honeywell provides a single point of contact for updating all components as threat systems evolve.

The system has been developed by integrating components from defense manufacturers such as Blue Halo, Leonardo DRS, Pierce Aerospace, Silent Sentinel, Walaris, Rocky Research and Versatol. These components include radio frequency detection with sensor technology that uses light to detect, track and identify objects as well as offensive drones to counter swarms.

Additional demonstrations are available to both local and international operators seeking a commercial Counter-UAS offering.