

Lockheed Martin's HELIOS Shipboard Laser Being Tested at Wallops Island



Artist's rendering of Lockheed Martin's HELIOS system.
LOCKHEED MARTIN

ARLINGTON, Va. – The shipboard laser weapon system built for the U. S. Navy by Lockheed Martin is being tested at Wallops Island, Virginia, a company official said.

The first High-Energy Laser with Integrated Optical-dazzler and Surveillance, or HELIOS, was delivered to the Navy in January 2021 and was shipped to the Navy's test site at Wallops Island.

The HELIOS is being test-fired and real-world test data from the weapon is being collected to confirm the models, said Jon Rambeau, vice president and general manager for Integrated Warfare Systems & Sensors at Lockheed Martin.

The single 60-kilowatt HELIOS unit is scheduled to be installed on the Flight IIA Arleigh Burke-class guided missile destroyer USS Preble in line with its deployment schedule, Rambeau said.

Lockheed Martin built one HELIOS under the Navy contract, which has options for multiple units.

Rambeau said the HELIOS, which is fully integrated into the Aegis Combat System, has the potential to be a significant counter to anti-ship cruise missiles. The weapon is scalable with additional of fiber-optic laser modules. The HELIOS is adaptable to the Ship Self-Defense System (SSDS) on aircraft carriers and most amphibious warfare ships.