



DoD Selects Foreign Comparative Testing Programs

The Department of Defense has selected 27 new start projects and 13 continuing projects to receive fiscal year 2003 funding under the Foreign Comparative Testing (FCT) Program.

Authorized by Congress since 1980, the FCT Program is administered by the Director, Strategic and Tactical Systems, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition, Technology and Logistics).

The FCT Program demonstrates the value of using nondevelopmental items to accelerate the acquisition process and cut rising development costs. The principal objective of the FCT Program is to support the U.S. warfighter by leveraging nondevelopmental items of allied and other friendly nations to satisfy U.S. defense requirements more quickly and economically.

Given a world-class foreign item, U.S. user interest in the item, a valid operational requirement, and good procurement potential, the FCT Program reduces the acquisition cycle for fielding needed systems and equipment not otherwise available. At the same time, by promoting competition and eliminating unnecessary research, development, test, and evaluation expenses, the FCT Program reduces total ownership costs of military systems while enhancing standardization and interoperability, and promoting international cooperation.

Each year the Military Services and U.S. Special Operations Command nominate candidate projects to the Office of the Secretary of Defense for FCT funding consideration. Each proposed project is screened to ensure the nondevelopmental item has addressed valid requirements, a thorough market survey has been conducted to identify all potential contenders, and the sponsor has developed a viable acquisition strategy to procure the foreign item if it tests successfully and offers best value.

Of the 27 new start projects for fiscal 2003, five are sponsored by the Army, 11 by the Navy and Marine Corps, four by the Air Force, and seven by the U.S. Special Operations Command. A list of these new projects, and the continuing projects to be funded follows. Additional FCT Program information is available on the FCT Home Page on the World Wide Web at <http://www.acq.osd.mil/sts/fct>.

Foreign Comparative Testing (FCT) Projects Selected for Fiscal Year 2003 Funding

ARMY NEW START PROJECTS

105mm Preformed Fragments—Republic of South Africa

155mm Ammunition—Republic of South Africa

Ballistic Armor for Helicopters—Australia, United Kingdom

Fuel Cells for Dismounted Soldier Systems—Canada, Germany, United Kingdom

Small Bundle Resupply System—Canada, Republic of Korea, Netherlands

ARMY CONTINUING PROJECTS

40mm Dud Reducing Ammunition—Germany, Singapore

Self-Destruct Fuze for Multiple Launch Rocket System (MLRS)—Germany, Israel

Silverized Kevlar—Canada

NAVY AND MARINE CORPS NEW START PROJECTS

Corona Monitoring System for High-Powered Naval Communications—Israel, Republic of South Africa

Deployable Instrumentation for MAGTF (Marine Air Ground Task Force) Training—Sweden, Switzerland

Eye-safe Laser Rangefinder for M1A1 Main Battle Tank—Germany, United Kingdom

High Rate-of-Fire .50 Caliber Machine Gun (joint with Air Force)—Belgium

High-Temperature Protective Coating for Gas Turbine Engines—Canada, Russian Federation

Improved Specific Emitter Identification System—United Kingdom

Replacement Structures for Aircraft—France, Poland

Resilient Abrasive-Resistant Skirt for LCAC (Landing Craft-Air Cushion)—Italy, Sweden, United Kingdom

Shipboard Anti-Jam GPS (Global Positioning System) Antenna—United Kingdom

Special Effects Small Arms Marking System—Canada

Underwater Communications & Tracking System for Submarines—Australia

NAVY AND MARINE CORPS CONTINUING PROJECTS

Assault Breacher Vehicle Mine Plow & Lane Marking System—Israel, United Kingdom

Communications Distribution System—Canada

Digital Flight Control System for EA-6B—United Kingdom

Floating Smoke Pot System—Germany

High Frequency Adaptive Antenna Receive System Replacement—Canada

Infrared (IR) Decoy—Canada

NBC Multipurpose Protective Sock—France, Germany, United Kingdom

AIR FORCE NEW START PROJECTS

Cleaner-Burning Stores Release Cartridges—United Kingdom

Man-Portable Intrusion Detection System—United Kingdom

Missile Reserve Battery Replacement—France, Japan

Rayon for Heatshield and Motor Nozzles—Austria, France, Germany, United Kingdom

AIR FORCE CONTINUING PROJECT

Eagle Vision Satellite Imagery Receiving and Processing Station Sensor Upgrade—France

U.S. SPECIAL OPERATIONS

COMMAND NEW START PROJECTS

40mm Enhanced Grenade Launcher for M4 Carbine—Germany, United Kingdom

Body Armor Flotation Vest—Israel, United Kingdom

Body—Worn Radar Warning Receivers—United Kingdom

Global System for Mobile Threat Warning—Canada, Denmark, Russia, Sweden, United Kingdom

Man-Portable SATCOM (Satellite Communications) System—Sweden

Ultra Light Aero Diesel Engine—Germany, United Kingdom

Wireless LAN (Local Area Network) Monitoring—Finland

U.S. SPECIAL OPERATIONS

COMMAND CONTINUING PROJECTS

Advanced Demolition Weapons—Germany, Sweden

MAAWS (Multi-Role Anti-Armor, Anti-Personnel Weapon System) Infrared Illumination Round—Sweden

Editor's Note: This information is in the public domain at <http://www.defenselink.mil/news>.