MISSILE DEFENSE AGENCY

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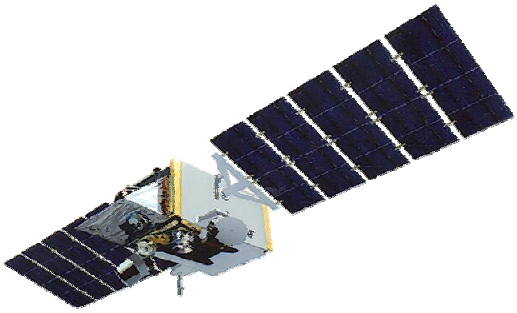
Fact Sheet

Space Tracking and Surveillance System

The Missile Defense Agency is pursuing the Space Tracking and Surveillance System program as a space-based sensor component of the Ballistic Missile Defense System. The program uses sensors capable of detecting visible and infrared light. The Space Tracking and Surveillance System will become part of a constellation of land-, sea-, air-, and space-based Ballistic Missile Defense System sensors.



Overview

- Two research and development satellites will be launched into Low Earth Orbit in early 2007
- A Ground Segment will be developed to operate the satellites. This Ground Segment will be designed for re-use with subsequent research and development satellites.
- The Block 2006 Space Tracking and Surveillance System will demonstrate the key functions of a space based sensor, passing missile tracking data to missile defense interceptors with the accuracy and timeliness necessary to enable them to successfully intercept missile targets.

Block 2006 Program

- The Block 2006 demonstration satellites consist of refurbished hardware originally built as flight demonstration satellites. Integration and testing of the hardware is proceeding on schedule and cost.
- Two satellites will be launched together on a single Delta II launch vehicle in early 2007.
- The Space Tracking and Surveillance System ground station will become operational approximately one year ahead of the launch date, allowing adequate time to train operators. Ground software development is proceeding ahead of schedule and under cost.
- The ground segment will communicate with the missile defense Command, Control, Battle Management and Communication system.
- The Space Tracking and Surveillance System will perform on-orbit testing of sensor performance against ground targets, airborne targets and short and long range ballistic missile targets. Following system performance check-out, the space-based system will continue to participate in Missile Defense Agency flight tests.
- The Block 2006 satellites are expected to be available for two to fours years after launch.
- From the data obtained from the Block 2006 satellites, the Missile Defense Agency will be able to make more informed decisions regarding the design of subsequent research and development spirals and a constellation of satellites for an operational architecture.