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April 9, 2010

Innoventor Military Systems, LLC awarded a \$50M multi-year contract from Lockheed Martin

St. Louis, Missouri – Innoventor Military Systems, LLC announced a “multi-year” \$50-million strategic agreement to support the Lockheed Martin F-35 Lightning II program goals. This agreement will allow Innoventor to expand their role in the production and manufacturing of the F-35’s Major Assembly Systems. Innoventor’s long-term affiliation with Lockheed Martin Aeronautics includes multiple production support equipment contracts and consecutive successful delivery performances, since August 2004. This Multi-year contract will benefit Lockheed Martin by ensuring consistent and proven production support equipment previously designed and built by Innoventor. It follows Innoventor being named the Lockheed Martin 2009 “Outstanding Small Business Performance” Company in June 2009.

These Major Assembly Systems will enable the F-35, also known as the Joint Strike Fighter (JSF), to ramp up from test & evaluation for “Low rate” initial production to “Full rate” production over the next five years. The production support equipment by Innoventor includes the first continuously moving line for a fighter aircraft, an assembly line that takes the nearly completed aircraft through the final stages of assembly; the Electronic and Mate Final Assembly system access platform, which functions in conjunction with a “tooling” system that brings the fuselage sections and wing into alignment; the Paint Cell Dolly, which holds tight tolerance and repeatable positioning of the F-35 aircraft during the painting process; and the Final Checkout Stands, a fully engineered product using 3-D modeling for a precision fit around the F-35 aircraft.



Photo: Lockheed Martin

The Innoventor production support equipment currently occupies a sizable percentage of the Lockheed Martin Final Assembly Building in Fort Worth, TX and with the additional equipment, will grow considerably. Innoventor will hire additional engineering and manufacturing work forces in the St. Louis Corporate office, Valparaiso, FL as well as in Barry, IL where an additional Innoventor Manufacturing Facility is located. This manufacturing capability allows Innoventor to help directly and immediately reduce the cost for this F-35 equipment to Lockheed Martin. At a time when Lockheed Martin is looking how to offer significant cost and schedule benefits to the US Government. “We have been a part of the JSF program team since 2004,” said Kent Schien, CEO of Innoventor. “We have expanded our role in the JSF program through the years; enhancing production capabilities and support equipment, while allowing Lockheed Martin to realize tremendous labor savings and cost affordability.”

The production support equipment for the F-35 is essential for the assembly of the world’s most advanced fighter aircraft. Innoventor has a large footprint for the F-35 production and utilizes the latest techniques for lean manufacturing on all Innoventor production equipment in the aerospace industry.

Innoventor, a St. Louis area design/build engineering company diversified in five major industries, provides full turn-key integration and project management from concept, to design and development, to test, and to proof of concept fabrication with expertise in analysis, design and process. The company was founded in 1996 by CEO, Kent Schien.

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