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BDB supports Lockheed Martin Expansion

Riviera Beach, FL -The Business Development Board today announced that Lockheed Martin and Space Florida have signed an agreement to advance the testing and production of a new autonomous underwater vehicle (AUV) known as Marlin™ in support of aerospace economic development in the state of Florida.



Lockheed Martin will outfit the Marlin systems with sophisticated sensors and imaging equipment to conduct commercial underwater inspections. The systems are well suited for use in the oil and gas industry as a safe and cost-effective way to inspect underwater infrastructure and pipelines, especially after severe weather such as hurricanes.

As part of the agreement, Space Florida will purchase two Marlin vehicles and lease them back to Lockheed Martin for technology validation prior to commercial production. The agreement will allow for further refinement and marketing of the AUV.

The Marlins will be built at Lockheed Martin's Palm Beach facility, and will be tested and demonstrated in open waters off Florida's Atlantic and Gulf coasts.

During a news conference today, Lt. Gov. Jennifer Carroll said Lockheed Martin's new vehicle could spark hiring at its plant next to the Intracoastal Waterway in Riviera Beach.

"Although this is going to create 50 jobs in our state over the next five years, the application beyond this is going to create hundreds of jobs. Palm Beach County is a significant contributor to Florida's economic growth, and I look forward to watching that trend continue," Carroll stated.

"Lockheed Martin is committed to providing high technology jobs in Palm Beach County that help promote Florida as a place to foster innovation," said Richard Holmberg, vice president of mission and unmanned systems at Lockheed Martin's Mission Systems &

Sensors business. “Our partnership with Space Florida for the Marlin AUV will help foster these job opportunities.”

“These AUVs have multiple commercial and civil applications in areas such as infrastructure inspection,” noted Space Florida President Frank DiBello. “This investment fits well with Space Florida’s strategy of leveraging aerospace-related technology in growing the industry three-fold in Florida by 2020; additionally, it utilizes the financing capabilities that the Florida Legislature gave Space Florida to help strengthen the state’s position as a global leader in aerospace research.”

“It is exciting that the AUV is being developed here locally,” noted Business Development Board of Palm Beach County CEO Kelly Smallridge. “We are pleased to see the ongoing growth and development of the aerospace cluster in Palm Beach County. With the strong engineering talent base in Palm Beach County, we continue to see new and innovative projects and partnerships emerge.”

Directly following the announcement at Lockheed Martin, the Business Development Board hosted an aerospace cluster roundtable allowing 24 local industry leaders to meet with Lt. Gov. Carroll. Carroll facilitated a robust discussion encompassing workforce needs, training, education, and other ways the State can help cultivate the growing aerospace industry in the county.

About Space Florida: Space Florida was created to strengthen Florida’s position as the global leader in aerospace research, investment, exploration and commerce. As Florida’s aerospace development organization, they are committed to attracting and expanding the next generation of space industry businesses. With its highly trained workforce, proven infrastructure and unparalleled record of achievement, Florida is the ideal location for aerospace businesses to thrive – and Space Florida is the perfect partner to help them succeed. www.spaceflorida.gov.

About Lockheed Martin: Headquartered in Bethesda, Md., Lockheed Martin is a global security company that employs about 126,000 people worldwide and is principally engaged in the research, design, development, manufacture, integration and sustainment of advanced technology systems, products and services. The corporation’s 2010 sales from continuing operations were \$45.8 billion.

About the BDB: The Business Development Board of Palm Beach County is the official public/private economic development organization for Palm Beach County and Enterprise Florida. Founded in 1982 as a not-for-profit corporation, our primary purpose is to attract and retain new industry, business investment, high quality jobs and workforce development through corporate relocations, expansions and international trade. During the past five years, the BDB has assisted companies that have created more than 7,700 direct jobs with average salaries greater than \$55,400, resulting in more than \$355 million in capital investment to Palm Beach County and an economic impact that exceeds \$1.8 billion. Additional information can be found at the BDB’s web site, BDB.org.

Shown in photo – left to right – Frank A. DiBello, Kelly Smallridge, Lt. Governor Jennifer Carroll, Richard Holmberg