

FAA Seeks Proposals for National ADS-B Contract

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) announced on March 30 that it is seeking proposals for the contract to provide Automatic Dependent Surveillance-Broadcast (ADS-B) services for the national airspace system. Three vendors – ITT of McLean, VA; Lockheed Martin of Rockville, MD, and Raytheon of Marlborough, MA – qualified in February for the ADS-B acquisition, based on their submissions to a screening information request issued by the FAA November 2006.

The national contract will require the selected vendor to provide ADS-B surveillance and broadcast services for the nation's airspace. Under the contract, the vendor will install, own and maintain the ground infrastructure, while the FAA pays for the surveillance and broadcast services. Employing this kind of performance-based service contract will give the government greater flexibility in meeting future changes in air traffic.

With ADS-B, the FAA is bringing the precision and reliability of satellite surveillance to the nation's skies, and laying the cornerstone for the Next Generation Air Transportation System to improve safety and increase capacity in order to meet the growing demand expected over the next two decades.

The contract will be awarded in the last quarter of fiscal year 2007. It will run from 2007 to 2025. The FAA expects the system to be commissioned by 2010 and the national deployment to be complete by 2013.

###