Space Systems Command
Media Release

SPACE SYSTEMS COMMAND
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Space Systems Command awards $78 million to Ball Aerospace for second Weather System Follow-on-Microwave Satellite

EL SEGUNDO, Calif. – Space Systems Command (SSC) exercised a contract option award for the procurement of a second WSF-M space vehicle (SV-2), being developed by Ball Aerospace. The award will cover development and fabrication of the second WSF-M space vehicle (SV-2), valued at $78 million.

Led by SSC's Environmental and Tactical Surveillance program office within SSC's Space Sensing directorate, the WSF-M system represents the next generation of modernized, space-based environmental monitoring (SBEM) systems, which will replace key capabilities of the legacy Defense Meteorological Satellite Program (DMSP). WSF-M will also enable the production of enhanced, warfighting weather-prediction and -analysis capabilities for mission planning.

"The capabilities our space-based environmental monitoring systems provide are key to any military operation. The first WSF-M satellite is arriving just in time as legacy systems such as DMSP reach their end of life," said Col. Dennis Birchenough, director, Space-Based Environmental Monitoring and Tactical Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance, SSC

Space Sensing. “The second WSF-M satellite will ensure we are providing environmental intelligence data to the warfighter.”

WSF-M will be equipped with a passive microwave-imaging radiometer instrument, and a hosted, government-furnished, energetic-charged particle (ECP) sensor. These devices are designed to mitigate three high-priority Department of Defense SBEM gaps, which consist of ocean-surface vector winds, tropical cyclone intensity, and low Earth orbit (LEO) energetic-charged particles. Both instruments will also address the additional SBEM gaps of sea ice characterization, soil moisture, and snow depth.

"The second WSF-M space vehicle extends our ability to measure wind speed and direction over the Earth's oceans and provide timely tropical cyclone intensity data beyond the first WSF-M space vehicle's end of life,” said David Betz, WSF-M program manager, SSC Space Sensing. “This award is possible because of the dedicated government and Ball team successfully hitting all milestones on the first WSF-M space vehicle."

The data gathered by WSF-M will be provided to joint warfighters conducting mission planning and operations globally. The first WSF-M space vehicle is expected to launch in 2023, conducting operations a year later.

"The Ball team is making outstanding progress on the first WSF-M space vehicle. It entered the integration and test phase this fall and is on track for launch at the end of 2023,” said Capt. Nicholas David, WSF-M chief engineer, SSC Space Sensing. “The second space vehicle will leverage the same team and design.”

Space Systems Command is the U.S. Space Force’s field command responsible for acquiring and delivering resilient war fighting capabilities to protect our nation’s strategic

advantage in and from space. SSC manages an $11 billion space acquisition budget for the Department of Defense and works in partnership with joint forces, industry, government agencies, academic and allied organizations to accelerate innovation and outpace emerging threats. Our actions today are making the world a better space for tomorrow.

Media representatives can submit questions for response regarding this topic by sending an e-mail to sscpa.media@spaceforce.mil

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