

NGC to Develop Next-Gen Relay Ground Station for NIWC Pacific



A ground crew loads the U.S. Space Force's SBIRS GEO-5 satellite onto a C-5M Super Galaxy aircraft for transport operations at Moffett Federal Airfield, California, on March 17, 2021. *U.S. SPACE FORCE / Walter Talens*

BOULDER, Colo. – Northrop Grumman has been awarded a \$99.6 million contract by U.S. Naval Information Warfare Center Pacific to provide mission-critical capabilities for Relay Ground Station-Asia (RGS-A), the company said April 19.

Northrop Grumman will design, develop, integrate, test and deliver the first of the next-generation relay ground stations to support legacy and future missile-launch and missile-warning detection satellites.

“The advanced technologies we bring to this mission build on our proven capabilities to provide existing and future missile warning systems that help keep our nation and its allies safe,” said Aaron Dann, vice president of strategic force programs at Northrop Grumman. “The model-based open-systems architecture provides the ability to rapidly deploy follow-on RGS systems in future locations around the world.”

The RGS-A award will help address the U.S. Space Force's mission to revolutionize existing missile warning and missile defense systems with the Future Operationally Resilient Ground Evolution system. A key element of the FORGE architecture includes relay ground stations that support existing and new satellite constellations and the capability to handle changes in bandwidth and resiliency.

NIWC Pacific will develop six antennas for RGS-A to enable the

Space Systems Command Next-Generation Space Based Infrared System (SBIRS) Ground System to operate the legacy satellites in geosynchronous orbit. The antennas will be deployed to the island of Guam and remotely monitored and operated from the United States.

Most of the work for the five-year contract will take place at Northrop Grumman's campus in Boulder, where it just opened a 23,680-square-foot office building. Northrop Grumman has more than 2,200 employees across Colorado supporting key customers including the U.S. Space Force, Air Force, Missile Defense Agency and the intelligence community.