

Raytheon Begins Low-Rate Initial Production of Block 2 Evolved SeaSparrow Missile



Fire Controlman 2nd Class Daniel Boice uses a guided-missile loader to upload an Evolved SeaSparrow Missile into the forward launcher aboard the amphibious assault ship USS Iwo Jima. U.S. Navy/Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Joe J. Cardona Gonzalez

TUCSON,

Ariz. – The U.S. Navy awarded Raytheon Co. a \$190 million low-rate initial

production contract for Block 2 versions of the Evolved SeaSparrow Missile, the

company said in a release. ESSM Block 2 missiles feature a new guidance system

with a dual mode active and semi-active radar.

This award

follows the Navy's decision to shift from development to production on the

enhanced intermediate-range, surface-to-air missile, placing the Block 2

variant on track for initial operating capability next year.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mw5f0_SQeuc

The ESSM

missile is the primary ship self-defense missile aboard Navy aircraft carriers

and large-deck amphibious assault ships. It is an integral component of the

Navy's layered area and ship self-defense capability for cruisers and

destroyers.

“ESSM

plays a critical role in protecting navy sailors worldwide and our

international partners share our commitment to evolve this missile,” said Mitch

Stevison, Raytheon Strategic and Naval Systems’ vice president.

ESSM is

the foundation of several allied navies’ anti-ship missile defense efforts and

is operational on almost 200 naval platforms worldwide.

The ESSM program is a

cooperative effort managed by a NATO-led consortium made up of 12 nations:

Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Germany, Greece, The Netherlands, Norway,

Portugal, Spain, Turkey and the United States.