

Finmeccanica: Selex Sensors and Airborne Systems wins US\$ 67 million contract to supply Seaspray radars to US Coast Guard

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The United States Coast Guard has selected SELEX Sensors and Airborne Systems' Seaspray 7500E radar system for its HC-130H radar upgrade program.

The contract valued at US\$67 million is scheduled to run over the next seven years. Prototype evaluation and testing is scheduled to commence in October 2005 leading to the complete conversion of the 27 aircraft fleet by 2012.

A total of 27 HC-130H aircraft will be upgraded to a new level of capability with the installation of the Seaspray 7500E electronically scanned array radar that will be the primary sensor on the USCG's front line long range maritime surveillance aircraft.

The Seaspray 7500E is the latest evolution of SELEX Sensors and Airborne Systems' highly successful radar family. The 7500E extends the family by utilizing electronically scanned array technology to offer greatly enhanced performance, available features, and life cycle cost compared to conventional mechanically scanned radar.

The SEASPRAY radar system will meet the USCG's challenging requirement for a sensor system able to detect small targets at sea in severe weather conditions, harmful oil spills, track ice flows, and provide en route weather avoidance with precise ground mapping capabilities in a highly integrated airborne mission package.

US Coast Guard HC-130H aircraft are often deployed at short notice in extreme weather conditions to execute search and rescue, law enforcement, humanitarian relief, environmental protection and maritime resource management.