



## Precision Tracking Space System

Space-based sensors provide the most operationally suitable means for global persistent surveillance of ballistic missiles in flight. The Precision Tracking Space System (PTSS) was intended to augment the Ballistic Missile Defense System (BMDS) by employing a constellation of infrared sensors to exploit all the advantages of orbital placement in space for precision missile tracking.

MDA worked with a team of laboratories and military service representatives from the Air Force and Navy to develop the PTSS concept and provide a system capable of space-based tracking of ballistic missiles and support homeland, regional, and theater missile defense.

The PTSS satellite program would have provided for warfighter needs by providing persistent tracking, post-boost, ballistic missile object tracking and support for object characterization and discrimination. Funding restrictions in FY11 and FY12 severely curtailed the acquisition approach, development and procurement goals, although the requirements for a space layer in the Ballistic Missile Defense System are still valid and the support still needed.

In the 2014 President's Budget, the Department of Defense decided to discontinue the PTSS program in FY14 under department-wide fiscal pressure brought on by sequestration. The program documented the final PTSS design on April 17, 2013 at the PTSS Technical Baseline Update, the last design review the program would have. The program office shut its doors on Sept. 30 and its personnel were merged with Space Systems, the program office flying the STSS-D and NFIRE satellites, on Oct. 1, 2013.

### PTSS Program Milestones:

- Established PTSS Program Office – October 2009.
- Air Force Service Cell established within the PTSS Hybrid Program Office – August 2010.
- Awarded Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Lab (JHU/APL) subcontracts with industry for the Manufacturing and Production Readiness Integrated Systems Engineering Team (ISET) – February 2011.
- Completed PTSS System Requirements Review – March 2011.
- Navy Service Cell established within the PTSS Hybrid Program Office – May 2012.
- Entered Technology Development Phase - September 2012.
- PTSS program discontinued in FY14 President's Budget - March 2013
- Data archival begins to document the PTSS program – May 2013
- PTSS officially discontinued; program office personnel merged with Space Systems – October 2013.

