

NORTHROP GRUMMAN

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2008 AVIATION WEEK PROGRAM EXCELLENCE INITIATIVE

June 20, 2008

Carole Rickard Hedden
Managing Editorial Director
AVIATION WEEK Strategic Media

Dear Ms. Rickard Hedden:

On behalf of Northrop Grumman Corporation (NGC), I am honored that the Guardian™ Counter-Man Portable Air Defense Systems (C-MANPADS) Program has been nominated for the 2008 AVIATION WEEK Program Excellence Award. We are very proud of the product and the program team's contribution to the continuing security of commercial aviation.

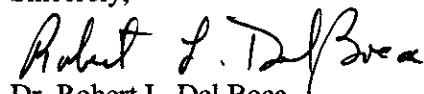
This robust system is the result of a highly interactive partnership between government and multiple defense and commercial industry partners. Our team included the Department of Homeland Security, Federal Express Strategic Projects, Northwest Airlines, AAR Corp., and numerous strategic suppliers. Together, this collaborative team established and refined processes and capabilities that not only benefited the C-MANPADS program, but contributed critical information to Congress and aviation authorities that will better enable effective protection of key economic infrastructures associated with commercial aviation.

Guardian™ achieved several notable 'firsts':

- The Guardian™ System was the first Infrared Countermeasures (IRCM) system packaged and installed for use in commercial aviation;
- Guardian™ was the first IRCM system certified by the FAA for multiple aircraft types—MD-10, MD-11, and B-747—in commercial passenger and cargo service;
- Guardian™ was the first IRCM system flown on commercially operated aircraft in routine revenue service; and,
- The system accumulated more than 23,000 hours of service during 4904 commercial revenue flights in a 12 month period on just 10 platforms;

In view of the DHS C-MANPADS Program initiative and Team Guardian's outstanding support to DHS and the interest of safe commercial air service, we are proud to submit this application for your consideration.

Sincerely,


Dr. Robert L. Del Boca
Sector Vice President and General Manager,
Defensive Systems Division