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Northrop Grumman KC-30 Tanker Team's Air Refueling Boom Completes Fuel Transfer to an F-16 Receptacle During Initial Ground Testing

MELBOURNE, Fla. — July 12, 2007 — Northrop Grumman Corporation's (NYSE: NOC) KC-30 Tanker aircraft continues to benefit from risk-reducing tests on systems planned for coalition tanker customers. The most recent test was a successful fuel transfer conducted with the Air Refueling Boom System.

This Air Refueling Boom System planned for the KC-30 Tanker successfully completed initial fuel transfers during ground testing July 4 in Madrid, Spain. The refueling operation employed actual aircraft systems, which supplied fuel to an F-16 fighter aircraft receptacle. Multiple fuel transfers were completed through the boom control unit testing both automatic and manual connection and refueling methods. Each fuel transfer successfully met every test objective.



The Air Refueling Boom System performed flawlessly during multiple fuel transfers to an F-16 fighter aircraft fuel receptacle during initial ground testing July 4.

“This is clearly another significant milestone that supports our low-risk approach on the KC-30 Tanker we’re offering the U.S. Air Force,” said Paul Meyer, Northrop Grumman’s vice president and general manager of the KC-30 Tanker program. “We’ve listened to the customer very carefully and we feel that our proven, commercial A330 platform coupled with low-risk and proven systems is the best approach to quickly replace their aging tanker fleet.”

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The Air Refueling Boom System will initially be installed on a fleet of five Royal Australian Air Force KC-30B Tankers provided by European Aeronautic Defence and Space Co. (EADS). The boom system is capable of transferring 1,200 gallons of fuel per minute, employs precision fly-by-wire control technology and contains an automatic load alleviation system that provides a larger refueling window for receiver aircraft.

The A330-based air refueling tanker aircraft has been selected in the last three international tanker competitions by the air forces of Australia, United Kingdom and United Arab Emirates.

About the KC-30: Northrop Grumman's KC-30 Tanker carries 45,000 more pounds of fuel than a KC-135, providing a significant boost to the U.S. Air Force's global reach. The KC-30 is also designed to refuel Navy and coalition aircraft, and to serve as a multi-role transport aircraft to move passengers, cargo and medical evacuation patients. The KC-30 incorporates defense systems, precision fly-by-wire technology, and the ability to integrate a communications suite and a global support network.

The KC-30 will be assembled in Mobile, Ala., and create and support 25,000 U.S. jobs. It will be built by a world-class industrial team led by Northrop Grumman, and including EADS North America, General Electric Aviation and Sargent Fletcher.

Northrop Grumman Corporation is a \$30 billion global defense and technology company whose 120,000 employees provide innovative systems, products, and solutions in information and services, electronics, aerospace and shipbuilding to government and commercial customers worldwide.

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