Aerojet Rocketdyne Propulsion Critical to Successful Intercept Test for SM-3 Block IIA Missile

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SACRAMENTO, Calif., Oct. 26, 2018 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- Aerojet Rocketdyne announced today that its propulsion systems supported a key intercept test of Raytheon's Standard Missile-3 Block IIA guided missile.

During the FTM-45 flight test, conducted by the U.S. Navy and Missile Defense Agency, the SM-3 Block IIA interceptor was launched from USS JOHN FINN (DDG-113). The intercept test was designed to further prove the effectiveness of the larger and faster SM-3 Block IIA variant in intercepting a medium range ballistic missile.

Aerojet Rocketdyne's MK 72 booster provided the first-stage propulsion on the SM-3 Block IIA, and the company's Throttling Divert and Attitude Control System (TDACS) maneuvered the kinetic warhead to successfully impact the ballistic missile target.

"We are proud that our TDACS and MK 72 booster played key propulsion roles in demonstrating the capabilities of the SM-3 Block IIA to defend our nation," said Aerojet Rocketdyne CEO and President Eileen Drake. "We are excited to support the transition to production for the advanced SM-3 Block IIA interceptor that provides increased range, velocity and capability."

The SM-3 Block IIA represents the newest generation of U.S. missile defense capabilities and is a key component of the European Phased Adaptive Approach for deployment at sea and ashore. Deployment of larger rocket motors and key technology improvements increases the area that can be defended and improves the probability of intercept against a larger threat set.

About Aerojet Rocketdyne: Aerojet Rocketdyne, a subsidiary of Aerojet Rocketdyne Holdings, Inc. (NYSE:AJRD), is a world-recognized aerospace and defense leader that provides propulsion systems and energetics to the space, missile defense and strategic systems, and tactical systems areas, in support of domestic and international customers. For more information, visit www.Rocket.com and www.AerojetRocketdyne.com. Follow Aerojet Rocketdyne and CEO Eileen Drake on Twitter at @AerojetRdyne and @DrakeEileen.

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