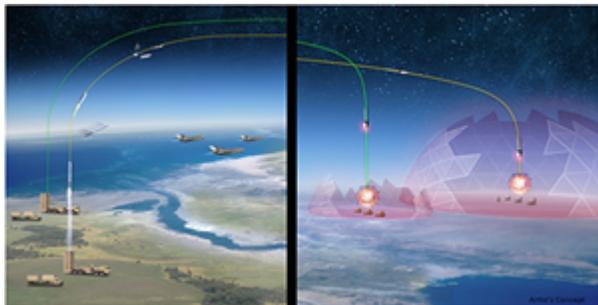




Aerojet Rocketdyne Achieves Another Milestone on DARPA OpFires Program

July 21, 2020

HUNTSVILLE, Ala., July 21, 2020 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- Aerojet Rocketdyne has successfully completed a second series of propulsion system tests in support of the Operational Fires (OpFires) program, a Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) effort to develop a ground-launched hypersonic missile for tactical use.



Artist's concept of OpFires, courtesy of DARPA

"We're pleased to be a part of developing this vital defense technology, applying our decades of experience in hypersonic and missile defense technologies," said Eileen Drake, Aerojet Rocketdyne CEO and president.

During the propulsion tests, called cold gas testing, the test articles operated successfully with all components providing critical data to the operation of the OpFires propulsion system. The test series followed last year's successful subscale [propulsion test firings](#).

DARPA's OpFires program aims to develop a two-stage missile capable of engaging high-value, time-sensitive targets from standoff range in contested environments. The effort to date has advanced the technology for an upper stage featuring a tunable propulsion system, according to DARPA.

Aerojet Rocketdyne has been supporting the program through a Phase 1 [contract](#) to design propulsion concepts and technologies for OpFires. The contract continued with an \$8.8 million option for Phase 2 of the program, which is expected to culminate in late 2020 following multiple test firings.

Aerojet Rocketdyne has long been a leader in hypersonic propulsion technology, with a breadth of capabilities to include scramjets, solid rocket motor boosters, warheads and missile defense technologies.

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](https://twitter.com/AerojetRdyne) and [@DrakeEileen](https://twitter.com/DrakeEileen).

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A photo accompanying this announcement is available at <https://www.globenewswire.com/NewsRoom/AttachmentNg/36415bdb-43b8-40be-9829-78281251782a>



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