

Raytheon to Supply Poland with Advanced Patriot Systems

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Poland will purchase Raytheon's Patriot Air and Missile Defence (AMD) systems. The sale will include four AN/MPQ-65 radar sets, four engagement control stations, 16 launching stations and 208 Patriot Advanced Capability-3 (PAC-3) missiles, according to a new notice to the U.S. Congress by the Defense Security Cooperation Agency (DSCA).

The Polish deal has a "ceiling" price of $10.5 billion, but both U.S. and Raytheon officials have explained that this figure accounts for the possibility of follow-on buys and other options that could be exercised in "phase two" of the program. The overall cost of "phase one" is expected to be approximately $7.6 billion (U.S.).

According to ainonline.com, Poland selected the Patriot system in 2015 after a lengthy evaluation of alternatives such as the Israeli Rafael David's Sling; the MBDA-Thales Eurosam/SAMP-T; and the Medium Extended Air Defence System (MEADS) from a consortium led by Lockheed Martin.

Raytheon representatives note that Poland will become an industrial partner for the next-generation of the Patriot system.

The Polish system will be integrated with the Northrop Grumman Battle Command System (IBCS). Poland will also be adding a new weapon to the Patriot missile mix. SkyCeptor, a NATO-compliant version of the RTN/Rafael Stunner missile, will be assembled in Poland and will be a third option for the Polish Patriots to slot in between the Raytheon-made MIM-104E Guidance Enhanced Missile-TBM (GEM-T) and Lockheed Martin Missile Segment Enhancement (MSE) missile models. Raytheon is also reportedly looking at incorporating a fourth missile that would mirror the MSE's hit-to-kill capability.