

GENERAL DYNAMICS

Worldwide Telecommunication Systems

77 "A" Street
Needham, MA 02494-2806
www.gd-wts.com

News

March 15, 2000
Contact: Rob Doolittle
Tel 703-876-3199
Fax 703-876-3186

RDoolitt@GeneralDynamics.com

SpaceData Selects General Dynamics as Prime Contractor for Deployment Of SeismicStar Satellite Communication Systems

Four-year Program Has Potential to Exceed \$100 Million in Value

McLEAN, Va., March 15 /PRNewswire/ -- SpaceData International LLC announced today the selection of General Dynamics Worldwide Telecommunication Systems, a business unit of General Dynamics (NYSE: GD - news), as the prime contractor for its SeismicStar program. SpaceData's SeismicStar is the fastest commercial satellite transmission system in the world.

SpaceData's SeismicStar is a new service for marine seismic exploration sector of the gas & oil industry. Designed to transmit data at 311 Mbps directly from operational seismic exploration vessels worldwide, SpaceData's SeismicStar will provide a complete end-to-end seismic data transfer service for the seismic exploration industry mapping the sub-ocean floor to locate and manage drilling sites for new oil and gas reservoirs.

Under the terms of the contract, General Dynamics Worldwide Telecommunication Systems will provide worldwide engineering and operations support for SpaceData's SeismicStar services.

SpaceData has placed an initial order for three SeismicStar shipboard terminals and associated services valued at approximately \$5 million. Orders placed over the four-year period of the contract could exceed \$100 million.

The first SpaceData SeismicStar system is scheduled for deployment on a seismic exploration vessel in April 2000.

General Dynamics Worldwide Telecommunication Systems will procure, integrate, assemble, test, install, and remotely operate the SeismicStar terminals on the exploration vessels. General Dynamics will also be responsible for procuring and

operating the SeismicStar network's terrestrial earth stations and high-speed fiber connectivity to terrestrial supercomputers for seismic exploration data processing. The SpaceData Control Center (Las Cruces, NM), which is owned and operated by General Dynamics Worldwide Telecommunication Systems, will provide operational control and maintenance for the entire end-to-end worldwide SeismicStar system.

SpaceData's SeismicStar terminals will be installed on ocean-going seismic exploration vessels and will automatically transfer the daily seismic data files by a high-speed 'broadband-on-command' service through a highly unique series of geostationary satellites to ground station facilities in the United States and then by fiber to customer's supercomputers for data processing. Today these seismic vessels gather and store very large data files on tape on a daily basis. These tapes are physically transferred on the occasions when supply vessels or helicopters can reach the vessels and remove the data tapes for later shipment or hand-carry to terrestrial sites for eventual processing and evaluation.

This complete end-to-end SeismicStar system is currently designed to deliver the daily high-speed data transmission of very large data files between remote offshore marine seismic exploration vessels and land-based supercomputers allowing faster turnaround of information.

About SpaceData International

SpaceData International LLC was established in 1998, based in McLean, Virginia, to provide very high-speed satellite transmission of gigabyte-size data files utilizing an existing constellation of broadband geostationary satellites. Through a series of alliances with other service providers, SpaceData will own or operate satellite communications facilities worldwide. Additional information illustrating SpaceData is available by contacting Jay Gnowles at jknowles@spacedata-int.com.

About General Dynamics Worldwide Telecommunication Systems

General Dynamics Worldwide Telecommunication Systems, a business unit of General Dynamics (NYSE: GD), engineers, furnishes, installs, maintains and supports a full range of communications systems and information networks, including asynchronous transfer mode (ATM) and Gigabit Ethernet (Gig-E) networks, large digital switches, satellite communications systems, campus distribution systems and wireless networks. Major customers include the U.S. Department of Defense, civilian Federal agencies and commercial telecommunications service providers. More information about General Dynamics Worldwide Telecommunication Systems is available on the Internet at www.gd-wts.com.

About General Dynamics

General Dynamics, headquartered in Falls Church, Virginia, employs approximately 43,000 people worldwide and has annualized sales of approximately \$10 billion. The company has leading market positions in shipbuilding and marine systems, land and amphibious combat systems, information systems and business aviation. More information about the company can be found on the World Wide Web at www.generaldynamics.com.

SOURCE: SpaceData International LLC

#