

M1A1 FIREPOWER ENHANCEMENT

DESCRIPTION

The Firepower Enhancement Program (FEP) system is a suite of upgrades for the Marine Corps' M1A1 main battle tank. It will include, at a minimum, a second-generation thermal sight and a far-target location (FTL) capability. The second-generation thermal sight consists of infrared optics, an infrared focal plane array, associated analog and digital electronics, display, brackets, and cables. The FTL system consists of a North Finding Module (NFM), bracket, cables, and inputs from the existing laser rangefinder and Precision Lightweight Global Positioning System Receiver (PLGR). The FTL system will provide the tank crew with accurate target location (<50 meter CEP out to 8000 meters) within two seconds after lasing the target. The

FTL solution is determined by utilizing the inputs of the laser rangefinder, PLGR, and NFM.



OPERATIONAL IMPACT

As part of a MAGTF, the M1A1 provides maneuver and armor-protected

firepower to the ground combat element. As the mobility and survivability of threat systems improve, the M1A1 must increase the speed and accuracy with which they acquire and engage targets. The M1A1 FEP system will provide thermal imaging and FTL capability that will overmatch threat sensor performance, thereby improving the ability of USMC tank crews to engage and defeat an enemy at extended ranges. The M1A1 FEP system will provide for increased target detection, recognition, identification, and FTL capabilities during day and night operations, through smoke, fog, or other battlefield obscurants.

PROGRAM STATUS

The Commanding General, Marine Corps Systems Command, approved the program for entry into phase 2, the Final Integration and Proveout Phase, in April 2002. The two competing contractors provided the government a satisfactory joint proposal, and in June 2003 change-work orders to both contracts established Raytheon as the prime FEP contractor. Raytheon will develop the engineering development models for evaluation.

PROCUREMENT PROFILE:	FY 04	FY 05
Quantity:	5	148
DEVELOPER/MANUFACTURER		
TBD		