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Raytheon signs LoI with Poland's TELDAT

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FULL TEXT

US defence company Raytheon has signed a Letter of Intent (LoI) with Polish defence electronics firm TELDAT covering co-operation in Poland's air-defence programme and potential export markets, the company announced on 28 July.

Poland's Armaments Inspectorate invited Raytheon in July to participate in the formal procurement process for its WISLA medium-range air and missile defence system, part of the wider Shield of Poland air defence programme. Raytheon's Patriot will compete against the EUROSAM consortium (Thales and MBDA-France) offering SAMP/T.

According to Raytheon, the LoI will cover four categories of work: IP-based networking solutions, software and devices; militarized communications equipment; command and control software; and system integration, verification and validation testing.

"TELDAT and Raytheon have been working together for more than two years and we are actively pursuing business opportunities with them in electromechanical design, software engineering, and overarching systems engineering," said Mike Shaughnessy, vice president of supply chain, Raytheon Integrated Defence Systems.

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"This is yet another example of our commitment to deliver significant and sustainable benefits to Poland's defence industry, including work share, co-development, co-production and technology transfer," he added.

The Wisla programme forms the medium-range capability in Poland's layered Shield of Poland integrated air defence system. Production of the system is expected to take place largely in Poland, with Polski Holding Obrony (Polish Defence Holding, or PHO, formerly Bumar) as prime contractor.

Raytheon has already said that it will partner with Poland on the future technology development roadmap of Patriot and that it has identified "many co-development opportunities for Polish industry to participate spanning integration, command and control, radar enhancements, and missile technologies".

In June, for example, it announced it would be working with Poland's Bumar Elektronika to develop a new identification friend-or-foe (IFF) antenna for use on the Patriot system.

Poland initiated its medium-range air defence procurement programme on 4 June 2013, while the first Wisla system is scheduled to enter service in 2017, with a total of six batteries planned by 2022.

Credit: Matthew Smith London

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