Movement Tracking System (MTS)

DESCRIPTION AND SPECIFICATIONS

The Mobile Tracking System (MTS) is a low-cost solution designed for the Army and its vehicle operators for tracking vehicles and communicating while on and off the road during war or peacetime. MTS is a mobile satellite two-way messaging system that is totally wireless from the MTS-equipped vehicles to the control station. The mobile component of the system is mounted on a unit’s vehicles and the control station component monitors vehicle locations. Both components use the same basic communications software and hardware, although the control station uses a computer with a larger display and faster processor. Communication between the two is provided by a commercial satellite vendor that allows units to send and receive traffic over the horizon, anytime, anywhere.

MTS technology allows the transportation coordinator to “talk” to the driver of any truck, regardless of location, without having to put up antennas or involve more soldiers. MTS is currently being adapted to incorporate radio frequency technology, an upgraded military global positioning system (GPS) capability, automatic reporting of vehicle diagnostics (future), and other features that support in-transit visibility.

PROGRAM STATUS

- 4QFY04: Completed user test to exchange messages and position location information between MTS and a unique commercial system, Defense Transportation Tracking System, used mostly by some Army units in Europe, Kuwait and Iraq.
- 1QFY05: Completed fielding of the system to 3rd ID (modularized) and selected units of the National Guard’s 42nd ID.
- 1QFY05: Continued to provide training, system installation, and technical assistance support to deployed military units from the main (Camp Arifjan, Kuwait) and forward (Camp Anaconda, Iraq) support locations in the Middle Eastern Theater of Operations.
- 1QFY05: Completion of a demonstration of MTS as a single tool for transmitting from vehicle sensors health information from the vehicles to remote maintenance centers, and for a communications path to facilitate vehicle remote troubleshooting.

PROJECTED ACTIVITIES

- 2QFY05: Selection and fielding of a more capable MTS mobile computer to support the increased functionality.
- 2QFY05: Implementation in Europe and in the Middle East Theater of Operations of a software change to enable the exchange of messages and position information between UTRACS/MTS.
- 3QFY05: Production and fielding of an upgrade to MTS to incorporate an enhanced military GPS capability.
- 3QFY05: Production and fielding of an upgrade to MTS to incorporate a radio frequency identification capability to improve the visibility of supplies in transit.

CONTRACTORS

System Integrator: COMTECH Mobile Datacom (Germantown, MD)
Software Development: American Systems Technology, Inc. (ATSI) (Troy, MI)

INVESTMENT COMPONENT

Modernization

PHASES

- Production and Deployment