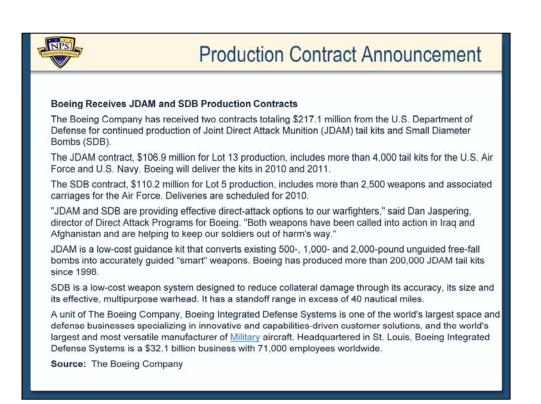


This screen shot from the Interactive DA Framework shows the Contracting View and the Major Products View just after the Full Rate Production Decision Review. This short presentation touches on the last of a series of contracts in the acquisition process that leads to the production of the systems that will be used by the Warfighters.

Prior to the Full Rate Production Decision Review, the Acquisition Strategy is updated. And once the Acquisition Strategy has been updated and approved by the Milestone Decision Authority, the Request for Proposal can be released. Contractors then submit their proposals and the source selection process begins. The winning proposal is offered the Production Contract for the system or the current increment of the system. Then the real production begins! The systems will be produced and delivered to the government according to the schedule in the contract. Once they're received by the government they'll be given to the Warfighters.

It would seem at this point that the work of the HSI practitioner is finished. Not so fast! There's always more work for the HSI practitioner! Even after the systems have been sent to the Warfighters, there's a good chance that Follow-on Operational Test and Evaluation will continue. If that's the case, HSI practitioners should be involved in these activities. It may be that the system being produced is just one in a series of increments. If that's the case, then there's still more HSI work to be done on the future increments. But even if the system is a one-of-a-kind acquisition and there are no other increments, there's still HSI work to be done!

Think back to the Cost Estimation module. The cost estimators really seemed to have a pretty good process in place for estimating the cost of a system, even if it was early in the acquisition process. And what was the basis for their process? Historical data. There are other things that make their process what it is, but historical data are a big part of it. So, as HSI practitioners, you should do all you can to document your processes and your costs. And in addition to that, try to document any savings in Total Life Cycle costs that can be attributed to HSI. Those savings could be a result of a decrease in accident rates, an increase in manpower availability, better system perfor mance, a reduction in time spent maintaining the system, and so on. If we were to document these HSI successes on every acquisition program over the next 10 years, think of the amazing repository of lessons learned that would be available for the next generation of HSI practitioners. And, the data would be so compelling that Program Managers would not question the need to include HSI in their Systems Engineering and acquisition activities!



This article reports that Boeing was recently awarded two production contracts for two different systems. The contracts were awarded in early 2009. As you can see, these contracts add up to over \$200 million! In the world of DoD acquisition, that's nowhere near as expensive as programs like the Joint Strike Fighter. But remember, these two contracts are just for tail kits and small bombs!