

# Mobile Protected Firepower

Limited User Test (LUT) and LFT&E data analyses are ongoing, precluding an evaluation of Mobile Protected Firepower (MPF) risk to meeting operational effectiveness, suitability, and survivability requirements. The Army will use the LUT and LFT&E data to select either BAE or General Dynamics Land Systems as the major contractor for the MPF program in support of a low-rate initial production scheduled for 3QFY22. At that time, the program will transition from the Middle Tier of Acquisition phase to an Acquisition Category IB program, with the Milestone C decision scheduled for 3QFY22.



## System Description

The MPF is an armored track vehicle with a 105mm main gun that provides the Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT) with a mobile, protected, direct fire capability against light armored vehicles, hardened enemy fortifications, and dismounted personnel. The MPF will be able to fire a broad spectrum of currently fielded munitions that can achieve lethal effects against a variety of targets in support of IBCT missions. The MPF design includes armor, smoke grenade launchers, blow off panels, and automatic fire suppression intended to enhance survivability against direct/indirect fire, rocket-propelled grenades, and underbody threats.

## Program

MPF was originally designated as an Acquisition Category IB program intended to enter the acquisition life cycle at Milestone B, but in September 2018, the Army Acquisition Executive approved MPF as a Middle Tier of Acquisition program. DOT&E approved a Milestone B Test and Evaluation Master Plan (TEMP) in August 2019. The competition for the Middle Tier of Acquisition phase of the MPF includes two vendors: BAE Systems and General Dynamics Land Systems. The Army will select one of the two vendors during a Source Selection Evaluation Board convening in 1QFY22 to support low-rate initial production. The program is developing the MPF Milestone C TEMP to describe the T&E activities for the production and deployment phase in support of the Army Acquisition Executive's Milestone C decision scheduled for 3QFY22.

## Major Contractors

BAE Systems – Sterling Heights, Michigan. General Dynamics Land Systems – Sterling Heights, Michigan.

## Test Adequacy

As part of the Middle Tier of Acquisition phase of the program, the Army Test and Evaluation Command conducted a two-phase LUT utilizing prototypes focusing on gunnery and maneuver. Testing was conducted from September through November 2021 in accordance with a DOT&E-approved test plan. Prior to the LUT, the Army conducted a Soldier Touchpoint event to collect early user feedback and familiarize the crew with prototype vehicles.

The Army completed LFT&E for both vendors in September 2021. Testing was adequate and conducted in accordance with the DOT&E-approved Milestone B TEMP and test plans. LFT&E included armor exploitation and ballistic hull and turret testing to inform vendor down-select, and provide early identification of potential survivability improvements prior to Milestone C.

## Performance

The LUT and LFT&E data analyses are ongoing, precluding an evaluation of the MPF's preliminary operational effectiveness, suitability, and survivability. Details will be provided in the MPF Operational Assessment report expected to be published in support of a low-rate production decision in 3QFY22.

## Recommendation

1. Recommendations will be detailed in the MPF Operational Assessment report in 3QFY22 after the completion of the LUT and LFT&E data analyses.