

Lightweight 155mm (LW155) Howitzer

Description

The LW155 is the world's first 155mm howitzer weighing under 9,000 pounds. It offers greater ground mobility and improved reaction times, compared to the M198 Howitzer it is designed to replace.

Operational Impact

The LW155 towed howitzer system (defined as howitzer, prime mover, and associated equipment) will meet increased operational thresholds in lethality, survivability, mobility, deployability, and sustainability required to support maneuver warfare. The system's operational tempo must be enhanced, ensuring that greater firepower is achieved while the system's vulnerability is reduced. To provide the supported force with overmatching fire support, a weapon system that shoots more, moves more, is more agile, responsive, reliable, and lighter is necessary.



Program Status

The program was restructured after a decision briefing was provided to the ASN (RDA) on 9 October 2001. The restructure will provide production weapons for use in Operational Test. The program will now incorporate a limited production decision in September 2002 for a total of 94 systems spread over two years and a follow-on Milestone III full-rate production decision upon completion of First Article Testing, Production Qualification Testing, and the Operational Test.

Procurement Profile	FY02	FY03
Quantity:	0	34

Developer/Manufacturer Prime contractor
BAE SYSTEMS
Barrow in Furness, UK.
Subcontractors
United Defense, Hattiesburg MS
Major Tool and Machine, Indianapolis, IN
Wegmann, USA, Lynchburg, VA
Hydro-Mill, Chatsworth, CA
RTI, Niles, OH
Rock Island Arsenal, Rock Island, IL
Howmet, Whitehall, MI
PCC, Portland, OR
PCT, Portland, OR
Rotek, Florence, KY
Watervliet Arsenal, Watervliet, NY