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## U.S. Navy Expands Partnership with BlackSky for Faster, More Secure Satellite Intelligence

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In a significant move to advance real-time battlefield communications, BlackSky Technology Inc. (NYSE: BKSJ) has secured the next phase of a competitive contract with the United States Navy to develop optical inter-satellite link (OISL) capabilities for its third-generation (Gen-3) satellite constellation. The partnership underscores the Navy's growing reliance on privately developed, cutting-edge space-based technologies to enhance national security and battlefield intelligence. Once fully deployed, these optical terminals are expected to dramatically increase the speed and security with which high-resolution imagery and critical space-based data reach U.S. forces, eliminating delays and minimizing reliance on vulnerable ground relays.

“This important award directly supports BlackSky’s ability to deliver timely, high-impact intelligence that drives decisions all the way to the tactical edges of the frontline,” said BlackSky Chief Executive Officer Brian O’Toole. His remarks highlight the broader strategic aim: ensuring warfighters receive real-time information with the speed and clarity needed for decisive action. The new OISL systems will allow Gen-3 satellites to communicate directly with one another through laser-based connections, bypassing traditional bottlenecks in data transfer and offering U.S. defense agencies a more secure, jam-resistant method of transmission.

As part of the ongoing contract, BlackSky will refine hardware and software systems, experiment with new transport concepts, and establish protocols to optimize secure and efficient data movement. The future-ready satellites will also be interoperable with the U.S. Space Development Agency’s (SDA) Transport Layer, a vital mesh network currently under construction to enhance the Department of Defense’s command-and-control infrastructure.

“Extending our Gen-3 capabilities with optical inter-satellite link terminals will give customers reliable access to real-time earth imaging capabilities across the full range of warfighting scenarios,” O’Toole added. He emphasized that these enhanced satellites are projected to transmit data ten times faster than current systems and carry five times more data—giving military leaders a clearer, faster understanding of dynamic operational environments.

Laser-based OISL technology represents a leap forward in secure satellite communication. By creating direct satellite-to-satellite pathways, this innovation reduces latency and lowers the risk of electronic warfare threats like signal jamming or cyber intrusion. As adversaries expand their own capabilities in space and cyber domains, dependable and resilient communication systems are increasingly vital to U.S. national defense strategies.

BlackSky, headquartered in Herndon, Virginia, has rapidly become a trusted provider of commercial satellite intelligence to both government and private-sector clients. Through its proprietary low Earth orbit (LEO) satellite network and its BlackSky Spectra software platform, the company delivers high-frequency imagery and actionable analytics on global events and strategic assets. Its services are used by military agencies, defense contractors, and critical industries seeking real-time situational awareness.

With the U.S. military investing heavily in next-generation intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) systems, BlackSky’s continuing development of OISL-equipped

Gen-3 satellites represents a valuable step toward a faster, more responsive defense infrastructure. At a time when global threats are evolving and data superiority is essential, this partnership marks a clear vote of confidence in the power of American innovation and private-sector expertise in support of national defense.