

## **TRW-Built Tactical High Energy Laser Wins Technology Grand Prize in *Popular Science* Magazine's "Best of What's New" Awards**

REDONDO BEACH, CALIF. — Nov. 9, 2000 — The Tactical High Energy Laser/Advanced Concept Technology Demonstrator (THEL/ACTD), the world's first integrated laser weapon system, has been selected as the Grand Winner of the General Technology category for *Popular Science* magazine's "Best of What's New" awards for 2000.

The TRW (NYSE: TRW)/U.S. Army/Israel Ministry of Defense team that developed THEL/ACTD to demonstrate the viability of using a laser-based air defense system to defend civilians against short-range rocket attacks will be recognized today at a special awards luncheon hosted by the consumer science publication at the Tavern on the Green restaurant in New York City's Central Park.

This is the third consecutive year that TRW has participated in the "Best of What's New" awards. In 1998, the magazine recognized the Air Force's revolutionary Airborne Laser system, for which TRW is producing the high-energy laser and related ground support systems. In 1999, the TRW-led team that developed and produced NASA's Chandra X-ray Observatory was honored in the "Aviation & Space" category.

"The THEL team is honored to be recognized for its scientific and engineering achievements by one of the world's most prestigious consumer science publications," said Lt. Gen. John Costello, Commanding General, U.S. Army Space & Missile Defense Command. "With its history-making shoot-downs of Katyusha rocket salvos this summer, THEL/ACTD has served notice that laser defense systems have the potential to alter forever the rules of engagement on the tactical battlefield."

On June 6, the TRW-led team used the THEL/ACTD to shoot down a Katyusha rocket carrying a live warhead. The successful intercept and destruction of the 10-foot long, 5-inch diameter rocket was performed at the Army's High Energy Laser Systems Test Facility (HELSTF), White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico. On Aug. 28, Sept. 22 and Sept. 25, the team extended its list of successes by shooting down several salvos of two Katyusha rockets fired in rapid succession.

Each year, the editors of *Popular Science* review thousands of new products, technology developments and scientific achievements to select 100 "Best of What's New" awards. THEL/ACTD, along with the rest of

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the winners, is listed in the December issue of *Popular Science*, which is now available on newsstands. The 2000 award winners are also featured at the magazine's Web site: <http://www.popsci.com/>.

“THEL/ACTD exemplifies the technological leadership that TRW brings, as a system prime contractor, to the development of next-generation defense systems,” said Timothy W. Hannemann, executive vice president and general manager, TRW Space & Electronics Group, the THEL/ACTD prime contractor. “Our systems engineering skills, in-depth knowledge of high-energy laser systems and program management expertise position us not only to develop a mobile, more capable version of THEL, but also to produce laser-based solutions for more advanced Department of Defense air- and space-based defense missions.”

[THEL/ACTD](#) is a transportable, ground-based air defense system that uses a high-energy chemical laser to protect civilians and military assets against attack by short-range threats such as artillery rockets. TRW led the team of U.S. and Israeli subcontractors that designed, produced, integrated and tested THEL/ACTD in less than four years for the [U.S. Army Space & Missile Defense Command](#), Huntsville, Ala., and the [Israel Ministry of Defense](#). Requirements for the system have been driven by Israel, which needs to protect civilians living in towns and communities along its northern border against rocket attacks.

TRW has been engaged in laser research and development since the early 1960s. The company develops high-energy chemical lasers for space, ground and airborne missile defense applications, and designs and produces solid-state lasers for defense and industrial applications. Headquartered in Cleveland, Ohio, the company provides advanced technology products and services for the global automotive, aerospace, telecommunications and information systems markets. TRW news releases are available on the corporate Web site: [www.trw.com](http://www.trw.com).

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