



Ralph D. Crosby, Jr.

Chairman and Chief Executive Officer
EADS North America

Member of the Executive Committee
EADS, N.V.

The Honorable Patty Murray
United States Senate
173 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

March 24, 2004

Dear Senator Murray:

EADS, as a global leader in innovation and advanced technology and the parent of Airbus, shares your dedication to bringing the best capability to the men and women of the United States military, and the best value to the U.S. taxpayer. Since the U.S. Air Force tanker modernization program began more than two years ago, EADS has become a world leader in the global tanker refueling industry. The corporation has invested more than \$90 million of its own funds on an advanced technology refueling boom specifically to meet U.S. Air Force requirements. In addition, the A330 aircraft is ideally suited to perform multipoint refueling, employing both probe and drogue and boom capabilities, uniquely enabling it to meet the requirements of all elements of our deployed forces--Air Force, Navy, and Marine Corps.

In January 2004 the United Kingdom Ministry of Defence selected the A330-200 tanker as the best aircraft to satisfy its Future Strategic Tanker Aircraft requirement. This competitive selection, coupled with EADS' rollout of aerial refueling tankers for the German and Canadian Air Forces, firmly establishes EADS as a qualified and competent global refueling solution provider.

EADS North America is committed to being a strong U.S. citizen, investing in American communities and employing American workers. Today, EADS is located at more than 30 sites in 20 states and the District of Columbia. In this past year, EADS extended its operations into Mississippi with the groundbreaking of a new, multi-million dollar helicopter facility – which was highly welcomed by that American community - creating American jobs and establishing a center of excellence in aerospace. This summer, we will also open a new EADS facility in Mobile, Alabama to support the U.S. Coast Guard. Through our network of U.S. suppliers and services, EADS today contributes more than \$6 billion annually to the U.S. economy and, on that basis, supports more than 100,000 American jobs.

EADS North America

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Senator Patty Murray

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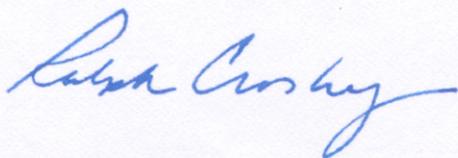
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The Department of Defense suspended the proposed lease and procurement of 767 tankers in December 2003 and subsequently has announced that it will remain on hold pending completion of reviews by the Defense Department Inspector General, the Defense Science Board, and the National Defense University. EADS has played no role in this procurement process since responding to a request for information more than two years ago. For the record, EADS did not request a GAO review of the selection. Your assertions that EADS "has resorted to a campaign of distortion and half-truths in an effort to kill the proposed Air Force tanker lease program," are simply not true.

Our comments of last week were straightforward. Should decisions by the U.S. government open a competitive procurement of aerial refueling tankers, EADS North America will respond. We will offer a superior, cost-effective aerial refueling solution that will be completed by American workers, on American soil, in the United States - providing the Department of Defense and the Air Force the opportunity to select the product that provides the best capabilities to the U.S. armed forces.

Should you have any questions on this matter, I would be pleased to respond in full.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Ralph Crosby, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

Ralph D. Crosby, Jr.
Chairman & CEO
EADS North America

Strathmore
WRITING 25% COTTON