

## SOARING

# A REALLY WIDE SPREAD



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ON AUGUST 20, 2013, LOCKHEED Martin and India as a nation got a high of sorts when the Indian Air Force performed the highest landing of a C-130J at the Daulat Beg Oldi airstrip in Ladakh at a dizzying height of 16614 feet (5065 metres). The landing was described by the defence ministry as a "significant capability demonstration move by the IAF" and by the press as "historic".

Now, Lockheed Martin is the world's largest aerospace and defence company and is a major supplier of high-technology systems and services to military and civil government customers. The company has maintained a presence in India for more than 20 years now. With the Indian economy growing at a decent growth rate and with the simultaneous strengthening of the Indo-US relationship in the past decade until now, Lockheed Martin has increased its presence in India. In fact, last decade, Lockheed Martin expanded its office to better support the Indian ministry of defence and its global security needs.

In addition to programmes and capabilities, Lockheed Martin also supports corporate social responsibility activities such as its flagship effort, the India Innovation and Growth Program (IIGP). In addition, the company supports science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) initiatives including a partnership with the Delhi Technological University's award winning UAV design team. "We sponsor science and inventor's fairs at local elementary schools, encouraging younger students to develop an interest in science and engineering education," says Phil Shaw, head of Lockheed Martin India Pvt Ltd.

He adds that, today, Lockheed Martin's largest programme in India is the C-130J Super Hercules – the aircraft that did the "historic" landing in Ladakh – which is the first major military contract between the US and India in more than 40 years. "India has joined the growing list of first time C-130 operators with 72 countries now operating the aircraft," he says.

In addition, Lockheed Martin and Tata Advanced Systems have also formed a joint venture company in India called the Tata



**Phil Shaw**  
Lockheed Martin, India

Lockheed Martin Aerostructures. "This joint venture is primarily for manufacturing airframe components for the C-130J, among other things," Shaw adds.

Talking about the programmes and capabilities in India, Shaw says that apart from the C-130J, the company has offerings such as the Javelin (medium-range multi-purpose weapon system); GMLRS (Guided Multiple Launch Rocket System); DAGR (semi-active laser guidance kit); HELLFIRE II (modular missile system); Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs); Aegis (world's most capable naval defence system); SPY-I family of radars; MK 41 vertical launching system; Arrowhead (advanced electro-optical fire control system that Apache helicopter pilots use for safe flight in day, night or bad weather missions); Pathfinder (the dedicated pilotage sensor system developed by Lockheed Martin for application on cargo and utility aircraft); Sniper Advanced Targeting Pod (long-range, positive identification of targets) and more. "In addition, Lockheed Martin is in the process of developing opportunities for the Littoral Combat Ship (LCS), census and civilian air traffic control upgrade programmes," he says. Additionally, Lockheed Martin is exploring avenues of cooperation with the HAL.