

BACKGROUND

Over the last 30 years, Beretta USA Corporation has delivered over 600,000 M9 pistols (the sidearm of the U.S. Armed Forces) to the DOD, all of which have been **made in the U.S.A. by an American Workforce**. Beretta USA has identified major improvements to the M9 that **increases the operational effectiveness and operational suitability of the weapon**. These improvements consist of design and material changes resulting in increased modularity, reliability, durability, and ergonomics. On 10 December 2014 Beretta USA submitted the M9 ECP to the U.S. Army Contracting Command, Warren, MI.

DISCUSSION

- In accordance with contract W56HZV-12-D-0011, Section C-9, 52.248-4500, CONFIGURATION MANAGEMENT DOCUMENTATION, Beretta USA is responsible for recommending and submitting ECPs which directly improve performance, reliability, quality, safety, and overall life cycle costs.
- The M9 ECP is Beretta USA's offer to the U.S. Army for a Commercial-Off-The-Shelf (COTS)/Government-Off-The-Shelf (GOTS) handgun variant of the M9, the M9A3, in accordance with the terms of the current M9 contract. The ECP has the potential to save hundreds of millions of dollars in taxpayer funding during a challenging fiscal environment.
- Beretta USA has also identified a solution to upgrade the existing M9 to an M9A2, nearly replicating the M9A3.
- The M9A3 features a thin grip with a removable, modular wrap-around grip, MIL-STD-1913 accessory rail, convertible safety/decocker lever to decocker-only lever, removable front and rear tritium sights, extended and threaded barrel for suppressor use, 17-round sand resistant magazine, and numerous improved small components to increase durability and ergonomics, all in an earth tone finish.
- The M9 ECP conforms to the Department of Defense (DOD) and U.S. Army's past practice and tradition of incremental small arms development, improvement, and upgrades (i.e. M2/M2A1, M4/M4A1, M16/M16A2, M240/M240B/M240L, M320/M320A1). 100% of the M9A3 major components are interchangeable with the M9. 76% of the M9A3 individual parts are interchangeable with the M9.
- The M9A3: 1) requires no new training for users, 2) is compatible with numerous, already-in-service accessories and training systems, 3) minimally impacts the current Integrated Logistics Support Plan (ILSP) for the M9, 4) is more reliable, capable, and durable than the M9, and 5) depending on quantities, will **cost less than the current M9**.
- New, **enhanced 9mm ammunition is available on the market today**. This ammunition, along with any developmental 9mm ammunition, should be evaluated for use with the M9A3.
- In the U.S. Army's own survey of M9 users, 74% offered recommendations for improvements to the pistol – improvements that are available on the M9A3 today. Small arms program representatives of the U.S. Army have identified and verbalized several concerns regarding ergonomics and performance aspects of the M9; Beretta USA has listened and delivered the M9A3.
- Beretta USA is fully prepared to negotiate Government Purpose Rights (GPR) and entertain other discussions, technical or program related, which will benefit the end user, the U.S. Army and all Services, the DOD, U.S. taxpayer, and all other M9/M9A3 stakeholders.

SUMMARY

The M9A3, as proposed by Beretta USA, is a joint industry/government proposition delivering a best value solution during a challenging fiscal environment. Adoption of the M9A3 will improve operational effectiveness and operational suitability for the Services at a fraction of the cost of a new start program. The M9A3 product improvement conforms to the U.S. Army's past practice of incremental design improvements and upgrades to existing weapon systems.

APPROVED FOR PUBLIC RELEASE