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## GOVERNMENT ORDERS SPY BLIMP

Friday, June 16, 2006 - FreeMarketNews.com

The government has hired defense subcontractor Lockheed Martin to design and develop an enormous blimp that will be used to spy on Americans, according to the Athens News. Government agencies such as the NSA are anticipating that as early as 2009 the blimp will be operational and begin supporting new ways of monitoring everything that happens in the country.

A prototype of the blimp is already being developed at a cost of \$40 million. The spy ship, called the High Altitude Airship, will be seventeen times larger than the Goodyear Blimp and hover 12 miles above the ground. Although it is very large it will be invisible to both the naked eye and ground radar because of its distance from the earth. Fuel economic and self sufficient, it will be powered by solar energy and will be able to fly for years at a time.

The U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command has already conducted a study to determine some of the uses of the spy ship. It has the capability of monitoring an area 600 miles in diameter at a time with surveillance equipment, such as high-resolution cameras. The government has ordered 11 of them – enough to monitor every parcel of land in the U.S.

staff reports - Free-Market News Network



### FINANCIAL DATA

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Dow	11014.55	▼ -0.64
Sp 500	1251.54	▼ -4.62
Tsx	11207.95	▼ -5.21
Tsx ven	2579.93	▲ +28.64
Crude oil	69.88	▲ +0.38
Natural gas	7.14	▼ -0.045

Quotes delayed at least 20 minutes

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