

**EYE AND THE NEEDLE**

The giant radar vessel developed by Boeing for the U.S. Missile Defense Agency is a dramatic sight against the nighttime Seattle skyline and its famous Space Needle tower as the converted oil platform navigated last month to a local shipyard for maintenance. The Sea-based X-band Radar, or SBX, towers more than 280 feet (85 meters), from its keel to the top of the huge white radome. Designed to identify, track and assess the flight characteristics of ballistic missile threats, the sensor is a key component of the Ground-based Midcourse Defense system for which Boeing is prime contractor. Boeing won a \$27.1 million contract to perform SBX maintenance and upgrades. PHOTO: DAVE HUTSELL/BOEING

