**1 . Date: 19-11-2024Armed ISR / ISTAR - MALE - General - Engine / PowersourceGA-ASI Completes Final Qualification Test for HFE 2.0 EngineURL: https://www.asdnews.com/news/defense/2024/11/19/gaasi-completes-final-qualification-test-hfe-20-engine**

On Nov. 13, 2024, General Atomics Aeronautical Systems, Inc. (GA-ASI), completed its final qualification test for its new 200-horsepower heavy fuel engine at its El Mirage, California, flight facility. The Heavy Fuel Engine (HFE) 2.0 is a highly reliable low-maintenance engine with a 40 percent increase in service life providing longer maintenance-free operational periods. The engine will provide the horsepower and electrical power required to meet the demanding performance needs of the new Gray Eagle 25M for Multi-Domain Operations (MDO).

The three-week qualification test of the HFE 2.0 engine is aligned with the Federal Aviation Administration’s endurance test requirements (FAA 14 CFR 33.49) as the FAA’s primary performance standard for engines to be used in commercial aviation. Over the last 18 months, HFE 2.0 excelled in strenuous durability testing that included 2,450 full power cycles simulating high stress conditions during three extensive test profiles of 200, 400, and 651 hours. Additionally, the engine completed 50 hours of flight testing across the flight envelope.

“This test is the culmination of the extensive durability and flight test program for the HFE 2.0 engine,” said GA-ASI President David R. Alexander. “It’s been great to see the outstanding test results that have validated the design and development of the HFE 2.0 engine we have worked on so passionately for the past seven years and to bring this world-class engine to the Gray Eagle fleet.”

Market forecasts by Region, Class, Type, and End-User. Country Analysis, Market and Technology Overview. Opportunities Analysis, and Leading Company Profiles

GA-ASI and its General Atomics Europe affiliate partnered with global leaders in high-performance engines — supported by propulsion technology innovator Cosworth — to develop an engine on the company’s internally funded research and development program. GA-ASI also brought in General Atomics Electromagnetic Systems to design and build the engine’s dual brushless generator, which will dramatically reduce field maintenance and is designed to be a drop-in replacement for the existing generator. The enhanced generator will deliver over 50 percent more electrical power to support newly available payloads for the MDO mission.

After completion of the FAA engine endurance test, next steps call for the U.S. Army certification process to allow authorization of the HFE 2.0 for use on the existing fleet of GA-ASI’s Gray Eagle Extended Range (GE ER) Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) as a replacement for the 180-horsepower engine that is reaching its end of life. HFE 2.0 is also the cornerstone of the modernized Gray Eagle 25M (GE 25M) UAS currently being produced under a U.S. Army-funded program to support future MDO UAS missions.

**2 . Date: 27-11-2024Fixed Wing - Armed ISR / ISTAR - MALE - General - Detect & AvoidLeonardo's Falco Xplorer Completes Successful EUDAAS Demo, Paving the Way for Unmanned Aircraft Integration in European AirspaceURL: https://www.asdnews.com/news/defense/2024/11/27/leonardos-falco-xplorer-completes-successful-eudaas-demo-paving-way-unmanned-aircraft-integration-european-airspace**

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**3 . Date: 09-12-2024Partnership - Rheinmetall and Auterion Are Working Together on Drone Technology and Developing Standard Operating System for Military IndustriesURL: https://www.asdnews.com/news/defense/2024/12/09/rheinmetall-auterion-are-working-together-drone-technology-developing-standard-operating-system-military-industries**

Rheinmetall, a leading system supplier for defence technology and Auterion, the leading supplier of drone operating systems, will be working closely together to develop standardised software-based components for unmanned drone systems. The two companies signed an agreement, thereby establishing a long-term co-operation.

The two partners are combining their expertise in order to create a military industry standard for controlling and operating unmanned aerial, land and naval drone systems. The co-operation includes joint product development and sales activities for unmanned platforms. The resulting homogeneous operating system is expected to provide military users with a significant advantage.

As a drone manufacturer, Rheinmetall is drawing on the operational experience gained from the Luna NG and Aladin systems and incorporating it into its work with the customer. Various drone systems from the Düsseldorf-based technology group have already been in service for many years with the German Armed Forces / Bundeswehr and have been deployed in Ukraine for several months.

Market forecasts by Region, Class, Type, and End-User. Country Analysis, Market and Technology Overview. Opportunities Analysis, and Leading Company Profiles

Dr Timo Haas, Chief Digital Officer at Rheinmetall AG, explains: “We see over two hundred different aerial unmanned systems in Ukraine. This makes military training very costly and time-consuming, and system interoperability is not guaranteed. Co-operation with Auterion and the development of a homogeneous operating system will enable the efficient and scalable deployment of unmanned systems. With our approach, there will be no need for system-dependent user training or system-specific integration into an overall system network in the future”.

Lorenz Meier, CEO of Auterion: “In the future, drones will be used in large quantities and, like computers and smartphones, they need a common operating system to make this happen. AuterionOS allows the customer to combine all drones on a common basis and to integrate different manufacturers into a common architecture. Our software stack has already been tried and tested in operation and thus enables software-defined defence”.

**4 . Date: 10-01-2025Contract - 30,000 New Drones for Ukraine in Boost to European SecurityURL: https://www.asdnews.com/news/defense/2025/01/10/30000-new-drones-ukraine-boost-european-security**

30,000 drones will be sent to Ukraine after £45 million worth of contracts were placed by the international Drone Capability Coalition, co-led by the UK and Latvia as the UK steps up leadership supporting Ukraine in 2025.

Defence Secretary John Healey announced this milestone alongside Latvian Defence Minister Andris Spruds at the Ukraine Defence Contact Group held at Ramstein Air Base today [Thursday 9 January].

Healey arrived last night for talks with the US Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin at the US Air Base.

Market forecasts by Region, Class, Type, and End-User. Country Analysis, Market and Technology Overview. Opportunities Analysis, and Leading Company Profiles

The Drone Capability Coalition supports Ukraine with uncrewed surveillance and attack capabilities. Funding for the new 30,000 drones comes from UK, Denmark, Netherlands, Latvia and Sweden.

These state-of-the-art, first-person view drones will help Ukraine fight against Russian aggression, allowing Ukraine’s Armed Forces to manoeuvre past Russian air defences to target enemy positions and armoured vehicles.

Today’s announcement follows the UK’s £7.5 million investment for the Drone Capability Coalition’s Common Fund, set out in November, and brings the UK’s total investment in the fund to £15 million to date. So far, the fund has raised around £73 million from the UK and partners.

As well as this, the Defence Secretary confirmed that the UK-administered International Fund for Ukraine now stands at over £1.3 billion, of which the UK has contributed £500 million.

He also outlined the Ministry of Defence’s plan for Ukraine’s Defence in 2025 to more than 50 allies and partners gathered for the meeting. John Healey discussed the plan with Ukrainian Defence Minister Rustem Umerov in Kyiv in December.

Defence Secretary John Healey MP said: "The fierce courage of the Ukrainian people continues to inspire the world, and this meeting of more than 50 nations sends a clear message to Putin about the international community’s unwavering support for Ukraine."

"I am proud of the UK’s leadership in supporting Ukraine. From heading coalitions which are delivering essential equipment alongside allies, to training recruits, we’re standing strong with Ukraine against Putin’s aggression."

"Our commitment to provide £3 billion a year of military aid for as long as it takes will ensure Ukraine can defend themselves and is essential to protect the security of the UK – because the defence of the UK starts in Ukraine."

In a further sign of the strength of international support for Ukraine’s efforts to repel Russia’s illegal invasion, more than £190 million of extra funding has been committed to the UK-administered International Fund for Ukraine by allies and partners, with Portugal and Germany contributing for the first time.

The fund uses financial contributions from international partners to rapidly procure priority military equipment for Ukraine. The new contributions include:

Since taking office in July, the government has stepped up international leadership supporting Ukraine and demonstrated its ironclad support, committing to £3 billion of military support to Ukraine every year for as long as it takes. In October, an extra £2.26 billion was announced, using the profits from seized Russian assets.

The meeting of allies and partners at Ramstein follows the Defence Secretary’s visit to Kyiv last month, where he met with his counterpart Rustem Umerov, to discuss the priority areas for UK defence support and announced a new £225 million package, including £186m from the International Fund for Ukraine, of military support.

The government is clear that the UK’s defence starts in Ukraine, and that providing military support is essential to promote both the UK’s national security and stability in Europe.

As part of the Plan for Ukraine’s Defence in 2025, the UK’s continued leadership on the war in Ukraine throughout 2025 will see an increase to Ukraine’s military capability; will build on the success of Operation Interflex by enhancing the training offered to Ukraine; will strengthen defence industrial cooperation; will increase cooperation with our allies to support Ukraine; and will increase pressure on Russia.

**5 . Date: 13-01-2024H-Rotary - Armed ISR / ISTAR - MALE - Contract - Schiebel Camcopter S-300 UAS Selected for Major European Defence ProjectURL: https://www.asdnews.com/news/defense/2025/01/13/schiebel-camcopter-s300-uas-selected-major-european-defence-project**

Schiebel, as part of the SEACURE consortium led by Thales, has been awarded a grant agreement under the European Defence Fund’s call for unmanned anti-submarine and seabed warfare solutions.

The SEACURE (Seabed and anti-submarine warfare capability through unmanned feature for Europe) consortium consists of 35 companies from 13 European countries and aims to progress joint Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) and Seabed Warfare (SBW) with unmanned air, surface and underwater systems protecting critical maritime infrastructure. The focus is on detection, classification, identification and tracking of underwater threats in demanding conditions.

Schiebel's latest product, the CAMCOPTER® S-300, will serve as the dedicated Unmanned Air System (UAS) for this project. With a maximum take-off weight of 700 kg, the S-300 offers an impressive endurance in excess of 24 hours with a camera and Inverse Synthetic Aperture Radar (ISAR) or typically 6 hours with a 250 kg payload. It is the first operational VTOL in its class to achieve these capabilities. The SEACURE project is scheduled to culminate in a large-scale sea trial by 2028.

Market forecasts by Region, Class, Type, and End-User. Country Analysis, Market and Technology Overview. Opportunities Analysis, and Leading Company Profiles

“We have been working successfully with Thales on various ASW solutions for the S-100 since our first participation at the NATO exercise REPMUS in 2022. Due to its longer endurance and higher payload capacity, the S-300 opens up a multitude of new possibilities for ASW and SBW. The SEACURE project aligns perfectly with our S-300 development roadmap and we’re proud to be part of such a significant project,” said Hans Georg Schiebel, Chairman of the Schiebel Group.

**6 . Date: 22-01-2025Hybrid Rotary / Fixed Wing - Cargo - Small - Partnership - Avy and NLR Partner to Drive Drone InnovationURL: https://www.asdnews.com/news/defense/2025/01/22/avy-nlr-partner-drive-drone-innovation**

NLR has partnered with Avy, a Dutch company that develops autonomous fixed-wing drones tailored for humanitarian, health, and environmental missions, with a focus on creating a sustainable impact. NLR has acquired an Avy drone for testing and evaluation, aiming to drive innovation in aerospace applications. This collaboration supports the development of sustainable and cutting-edge drone technology.

Avy, a pioneer in autonomous sustainable drone solutions, has entered into a strategic collaboration with Royal Netherlands Aerospace Centre (NLR), a leading authority in aerospace research and innovation. As part of this partnership, NLR has acquired an Avy latest generation Aera Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) for testing and operational evaluation. Additionally, NLR will leverage its expertise to help Avy audit and enhance its operational capabilities.

The Avy Aera, recognized for its emission-free and autonomous flight capabilities (Beyond Visual Line of Sight), will be integrated into NLR’s research programs. These programs focus on testing innovative aerospace applications, including emergency response, monitoring and urgent logistics. The Aera’s capabilities, such as long-range autonomous flight up to 100km, and advanced safety features, make it an ideal fit for NLR’s pioneering initiatives.

Market forecasts by Region, Class, Type, and End-User. Country Analysis, Market and Technology Overview. Opportunities Analysis, and Leading Company Profiles

Simultaneously, NLR’s collaboration with Avy extends beyond product deployment. As part of its commitment to develop excellence in aerospace practices, NLR will conduct a comprehensive audit of Avy’s operations. This process aims to ensure Avy’s workflows align with industry-leading standards and guarantee optimal performance across product design, manufacturing, deployment, and regulatory compliance.

“Partnering with NLR is a significant milestone for Avy,” states Benjamin van der Hilst, CEO of Avy. “Their expertise in aerospace innovation and rigorous operational auditing will accelerate our mission to revolutionize UAV solutions while maintaining the highest standards of quality and sustainability.”

Michel Peters, CEO of Royal NLR, fully agrees: “It is a core objective of NLR to support the Dutch aviation industry in establishing a strong position in the UAM supply chain. Therefore, we’re very pleased to test the potential of this sustainable and innovative designed Dutch drone in various applications while supporting Avy in enhancing their operational frameworks.”

**7 . Date: 23-01-2025Hybrid Rotary / Fixed Wing - ISR / ISTAR - Mini - Contract - Red Cat Secures $518K in New Orders for Edge 130 Drones from US Government AgenciesURL: https://www.asdnews.com/news/defense/2025/01/23/red-cat-secures-518k-new-orders-edge-130-drones-us-government-agencies**

Red Cat Holdings, Inc. (Nasdaq: RCAT) ("Red Cat" or the "Company"), a drone technology company integrating robotic hardware and software for military, government, and commercial operations, today announced it has secured new orders for its Edge 130 drone from the Army National Guard and another U.S. Government Agency (OGA), totaling $518,000.

FlightWave, a leading provider of VTOL drone, sensor and software solutions was acquired by Red Cat in September 2024. The acquisition brought FlightWave’s flagship drone, the Edge 130 Blue into its family of low-cost, portable unmanned reconnaissance and precision lethal strike systems. FlightWave’s size, weight and vertical take off capabilities makes it ideal for maritime operations and littoral environments.

The combined orders, which amount to 12 Edge 130 drones, reflect Red Cat’s continued momentum in providing advanced drone technology solutions to key defense and security customers. The Edge 130 is known for its robust capabilities, including long-endurance flight times, AI-driven surveillance features, and operational effectiveness in a variety of mission-critical environments.

Market forecasts by Region, Class, Type, and End-User. Country Analysis, Market and Technology Overview. Opportunities Analysis, and Leading Company Profiles

“These new orders further validate the performance and unique capabilities of the Edge 130 as part of our Family of Systems and reinforce our position as a trusted provider of drone solutions for government and military applications,” said Jeff Thompson, Red Cat CEO. “We are expanding our manufacturing capacity for the Edge 130 to accelerate this momentum and remain committed to supporting U.S. government agencies with the industry’s best technology that enhances their mission capabilities and success.”

The Edge 130 Blue is a UAS-certified military-grade tricopter for long-range mapping, inspection, surveillance, and reconnaissance needs. Designed specifically for government and military applications, the Edge 130 Blue can be assembled and hand-launched in just one minute by a single user to capture high-accuracy aerial imagery with medium-range autonomy. Weighing in at only 1200g, the Edge has a 60+ minute flight time in forward mode, an industry-leading endurance among all other Blue UAS-approved drones available.

**8 . Date: 13-02-2025Fixed Wing - Loitering Munition - Mini - General - Helsing to Produce 6,000 Additional Strike Drones for UkraineURL: https://www.asdnews.com/news/defense/2025/02/13/helsing-produce-6000-additional-strike-drones-ukraine**

Helsing, the leading European defence technology company, today announced that it is producing 6,000 HX-2 strike drones for delivery to Ukraine. This follows a previous order of 4,000 HF-1 strike drones which are currently being delivered to Ukraine, in partnership with Ukrainian industry. The new batch of drones makes Helsing one of the largest strike drone manufacturers globally.

Unveiled in late 2024, HX-2 is an electrically propelled X-wing precision munition with up to 100 km range. Advanced on-board AI enables full resistance to electronic warfare. When operating as part of Helsing’s Altra recce-strike software, multiple HX-2 can assemble into swarms, controlled by single human operators. HX-2 has been designed to be mass-producible and at significantly lower unit cost than conventional systems, thus filling a growing capability gap in modern land warfare.

In addition, Helsing is announcing the completion of the first Resilience Factory in Southern Germany.

Market forecasts by Region, Class, Type, and End-User. Country Analysis, Market and Technology Overview. Opportunities Analysis, and Leading Company Profiles

Resilience Factories are Helsing’s high-efficiency production facilities designed to provide nation states with local and sovereign manufacturing capacities. Helsing is set to build Resilience Factories across the European continent, with the ability to scale manufacturing rates to tens of thousands of units in case of a conflict.

The first Resilience Factory (RF-1) is operational in Southern Germany and has an initial monthly production capacity of more than 1,000 HX-2.

Gundbert Scherf, co-founder of Helsing, said: “We are scaling up production of HX-2 in response to additional orders from Ukraine, where precision mass is offsetting a numerical disadvantage in legacy systems on a daily basis. It is clear that NATO has important lessons to learn, and fast. With our Resilience Factories, we are taking a distributed approach towards mass manufacturing these systems across Europe, allowing individual nation states to produce locally and ensure sovereignty of production and supply chain.”

Niklas Köhler, co-founder of Helsing said: “We have assembled Europe’s world-leading manufacturing talent to completely rethink and develop a new generation of mass producible effects. Our Resilience Factories combine software-first design with scalable manufacturing techniques. We solve the hard problems in the software layer, not the electronics. This generates affordable precision mass, deters adversaries, and protects our democracies. HX-2 is just the first of a whole range of products based on this premise.“

**9 . Date: 17-02-2025Partnership - General Atomics and EDGE Establish Partnership To Manufacture, Test and Repair Electromechanical SystemsURL: https://www.asdnews.com/news/defense/2025/02/17/general-atomics-edge-establish-partnership-manufacture-test-repair-electromechanical-systems**

EPI, an entity of EDGE Group and the cornerstone of precision engineering in the UAE’s aerospace, oil and gas, and defence industries, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with General Atomics-Systems Integration, an affiliate of General Atomics.

The signing ceremony was held on February 17, 2025, at the Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre during the International Defence Exhibition and Conference (IDEX) 2025.

“Through this collaboration, EPI will significantly expand its capabilities. This will include the establishment of a state-of-the-art facility to support the production of electromechanical systems,” said Michael Deshaies, CEO of EPI.

Market forecasts by Region, Class, Type, and End-User. Country Analysis, Market and Technology Overview. Opportunities Analysis, and Leading Company Profiles

“Working with EPI will mark a leap forward in the development and manufacturing of this advanced aviation technology,” said General Atomics-Systems Integration Vice President Scott Sappenfield. “We expect to offer safe, affordable, high-performance solutions to replace legacy systems in military and commercial aircraft.”

This project is enabled by the Tawazun Council (Tawazun Economic Program). A key milestone in the project will be the certification of EPI’s facility as a Part 145 repair centre. This will involve the production airworthiness certification process and the test and evaluation of prototype units, ensuring compliance with the highest industry standards.

**10 . Date: 18-02-2025Partnership - EDGE Group and Leonardo Sign Groundbreaking Collaboration AgreementURL: https://www.asdnews.com/news/defense/2025/02/18/edge-group-leonardo-sign-groundbreaking-collaboration-agreement**

EDGE, one of the world’s leading advanced technology and defence groups, and Leonardo, a major global industrial group that builds technological capabilities in aerospace, defence, and security, have signed a groundbreaking collaboration agreement to further enhance their partnership in developing solutions across six critical domains. The agreement aims to strengthen existing synergies and capitalise on new complementary opportunities for deeper cooperation.

The pivotal agreement, signed at the International Defence Exhibition (IDEX) 2025, currently taking place in Abu Dhabi, establishes a strategic framework for the UAE market while advancing a global export strategy. It aims to enhance synergies, facilitate knowledge exchange, and optimise specialised resources to capitalise on emerging opportunities more effectively. The collaboration will focus on key domains: Airborne Capabilities including Radar – particularly for Multi Mission Aircraft; Anti-Tactical Ballistic Missile Defence; Counter-Drone and Mobile Surveillance Systems; Naval Combat Management Systems; Radio Communications; and Optronics Commander Sight.

Hamad Al Marar, EDGE Group Managing Director & CEO, said: “This important step marks the next phase in our existing strategic agreement with industry leader Leonardo, building on the opportunities presented by the strong relationship between the UAE and Italy. Fundamentally, however, it reinforces our vision of growth through mutually beneficial partnerships, ensuring a win-win approach to sourcing and realising complementary multi-domain opportunities across the world, and expanding these synergies for continued economic growth, innovation, and excellence, all in support of the sustainable preservation of security.”

Market forecasts by Region, Platform, Product, and End-User. Country Analysis, Market and Technology Overview, Opportunities and Impact Analysis, and Leading Company Profiles

The agreement is a precursor to a structured partnership focused on jointly marketing these products and solutions to governments across multiple countries. It also commits to the development of shared intellectual property (IP) and future design innovations.

Lorenzo Mariani, Co-General Manager of Leonardo, added: “We are deeply honoured and thrilled to collaborate with EDGE Group, aiming to establish unprecedented industrial capabilities for national and export requirements. The sectors identified as pillars of this joint strategy are getting more and more important in an evolving market and operational scenario. That is why we believe that joining forces in these fields will deliver the level of capabilities that the UAE and other export markets are requiring.”

The strategic agreement aims to further enhance the capabilities of both EDGE and Leonardo in the design of cutting-edge, complex systems in disruptive sectors with significant market potential, and is a crucial step in diversifying and expanding both groups’ portfolios of airborne, terrestrial, naval, and cyber solutions.

**11 . Date: 18-02-2025General - SoftwareElbit Unveils Dominion-X: Advanced Autonomous Management Operating System for Unmanned PlatformsURL: https://www.asdnews.com/news/defense/2025/02/18/elbit-unveils-dominionx-advanced-autonomous-management-operating-system-unmanned-platforms**

Elbit Systems Ltd. is proud to announce the launch of Dominion-X, its next-generation state-of-the-art autonomous management operating system for unmanned platforms. Dominion-X offers advanced capabilities for planning, operating, and managing diverse robotic platforms and payloads across multiple domains. Built on a robust, proven software stack, Dominion-X maximizes the operational potential of Unmanned Aerial Systems (UASs) and Unmanned Ground Vehicles (UGVs). It ensures full terrain dominance, including the above-ground domain, thus enabling a complete C4I system with CUAS infrastructure.

Based on lessons learned from the battlefield and years of accumulative knowledge, the new open architecture operating system can be integrated with a wide variety of platforms and payloads, enabling adaptive, complex, and collective behaviors. This enables unmanned systems to move with immunity and make smarter decisions. Dominion-X fosters human-swarm teaming, facilitating seamless interaction, influence, and behavioral inference. It delivers large-scale, distributed sensing capabilities with advanced information fusion and distillation for superior situational awareness and terrain dominance. Additionally, Dominion-X ensures adaptive, resilient, and efficient sharing and storage of distributed information, even in fragmented operational environments. It simplifies the deployment, support, and maintenance of large-scale unmanned systems, enhancing operational efficiency and system longevity.

Key Features and Advancements:

Market forecasts by Region, Class, Type, and End-User. Country Analysis, Market and Technology Overview. Opportunities Analysis, and Leading Company Profiles

With Dominion-X, Elbit Systems continues to lead the way in unmanned systems innovation, setting new standards for autonomy, flexibility, and mission success.

**12 . Date: 18-02-2025Partnership - SimulationGA-ASI and CAE Sign Long-Term Agreement MQ-9B SkyGuardian Mission TrainerURL: https://www.asdnews.com/news/defense/2025/02/18/gaasi-cae-sign-longterm-agreement-mq9b-skyguardian-mission-trainer**

General Atomics Aeronautical Systems, Inc. and CAE are pleased to announce a long-term agreement for the development and production of the next-generation mission trainer for GA-ASI’s MQ-9B SkyGuardian® remotely piloted aircraft system (RPAS). The contract with GA-ASI includes a firm order for 11 mission trainers, with the opportunity to deliver up to 50 devices over the next five years. The agreement brings together two industry leaders to enhance the training capabilities for operators of MQ-9B and builds on the long-standing business relationship between GA-ASI and CAE.

Recognized globally as the reference in synthetic training for RPAS, CAE leverages the latest visualization technology in the development of the next-generation MQ-9B SkyGuardian Mission Trainers. The trainers will employ the CAE Prodigy Image Generator to provide a highly realistic training environment to replicate flight operations. Powered by a state-of-the-art gaming engine, CAE Prodigy elevates training standards through an enhanced immersive training environment, high-fidelity graphics, and physics-based simulation. This cutting-edge technology enhances the realism and effectiveness of the training, ensuring that operators are well-prepared for their missions.

MQ-9B is the world’s most advanced RPAS delivering exceptionally long endurance and range, with auto takeoff and landing under pole-to-pole SATCOM-only control and will be able to operate in unsegregated airspace using the GA-ASI-developed Detect and Avoid system. MQ-9B includes the SkyGuardian and SeaGuardian® models, as well as the new Protector RG Mk1 that is currently being delivered to the United Kingdom’s Royal Air Force. The platform is building a global operator list, with procurement contracts signed with Belgium, Canada, Poland, the Japan Coast Guard, the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force, Taiwan, India, and the U.S. Air Force in support of Special Operations Command. MQ-9B has also supported various U.S. Navy exercises.

Market forecasts by Region, Class, Type, and End-User. Country Analysis, Market and Technology Overview. Opportunities Analysis, and Leading Company Profiles

“GA-ASI and CAE have worked together to deliver leading-edge training to our customers for more than two decades,” said Jaime Walters, vice president of International Strategic Development at GA-ASI. “Through this partnership, we will continue to enhance operational readiness and effectiveness for MQ-9B operators worldwide, and in particular, we see the new SkyGuardian Mission Trainers supporting our new Canadian customer. CAE’s comprehensive training solutions ensure that personnel are well-prepared to operate these advanced RPAS efficiently and safely.”

GA-ASI’s partnership with CAE is part of its Team SkyGuardian Canada initiative, which is focused on GA-ASI’s collaboration and investment with Canadian businesses following the Government of Canada’s selection of the MQ-9B SkyGuardian.

“This agreement underscores our commitment to advancing the capabilities of RPAS training and ensuring that MQ-9B SkyGuardian operators worldwide have access to the best training tools available,” said Marc-Olivier Sabourin, Division President, CAE Defense & Security, International. “Our knowhow, expertise, and experience put our customers on the cutting edge of training and readiness. Through our long-term relationship with General Atomics, we are proud to be the key partner of choice for training solutions involving remotely piloted aircraft systems.”

CAE is a leading provider of flight training and services and works in partnership with the world’s most advanced OEMs and defense forces to deliver integrated training solutions that ensure operational excellence and mission readiness.

**13 . Date: 18-02-2025Fixed Wing - ISR / ISTAR - Small - Insitu Awarded $102,353,293 Modification to Previously-Awarded firm-fixed-price, IDIQ ContractURL: https://www.asdnews.com/news/defense/2025/02/18/insitu-awarded-102353293-modification-previouslyawarded-firmfixedprice-idiq-contract**

Insitu Inc., Bingen, Washington, is awarded a $102,353,293 modification (P00007) to a previously awarded firm-fixed-price, indefinite-delivery/indefinite-quantity contract (N0001922D0038).

This modification increases the contract ceiling to procure 21 RQ-21A Blackjack air vehicles and 47 ScanEagle air vehicles, as well as associated payloads, turrets, support equipment, spares, tools, and training for both Unmanned Aircraft Systems in support of intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance for the Navy, Foreign Military Sales customers, and other international business partnership capacity efforts.

Work will be performed in Bingen, Washington (88%); and various locations outside the continental U.S. (12%), and is expected to be completed in June 2026. No funds will be obligated at the time of award; funds will be obligated on individual orders as they are issued. This modification was not competed. Naval Air Systems Command, Patuxent River, Maryland, is the contracting activity.

Market forecasts by Region, Class, Type, and End-User. Country Analysis, Market and Technology Overview. Opportunities Analysis, and Leading Company Profiles

**14 . Date: 20-02-2025Hybrid Rotary / Fixed Wing - Armed ISR / ISTAR - Small - General - PlatformHavelsan's New UAV: BULUTURL: https://www.asdnews.com/news/defense/2025/02/20/havelsans-new-uav-bulut**

Entering the field of robotic autonomous systems in 2019, HAVELSAN has built a platform ecosystem that includes unmanned aerial, ground, and naval vehicles. The company has now introduced another unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) for use by security forces.

Following the BAHA UAV, HAVELSAN has developed BULUT, a reconnaissance and surveillance UAV, in line with the project initiated under the leadership of the Presidency of Defense Industries (SSB) and the requirements it defined.

After undergoing development at HAVELSAN’s Robotic Autonomous Systems Center for some time, BULUT successfully met the tests and requirements set by the Acceptance Committee, which included representatives from users and the SSB. As a result, the UAV was added to the inventories of the Turkish Armed Forces and the General Directorate of Security.

Market forecasts by Region, Class, Type, and End-User. Country Analysis, Market and Technology Overview. Opportunities Analysis, and Leading Company Profiles

Equipped with an internal combustion engine, BULUT can stay airborne for six continuous hours and conduct reconnaissance and surveillance independently of GNSS.

Designed to operate under light rain and snowfall, the BULUT UAV system can function in various operational conditions thanks to its advanced sensors and software.

Currently in active use by security forces in operational areas, BULUT has a payload capacity of 5 kg and can share data over a range of up to 80 kilometers.

BULUT employs an electric motor system for vertical takeoff and landing, while its reconnaissance and surveillance operations are powered by a gasoline internal combustion engine, allowing it to remain airborne for up to six hours.

With advanced operational features such as moving object detection and avoidance, collision prevention, and anti-jamming capabilities, BULUT can be deployed for a wide range of missions, including border and coastal patrol, counter-smuggling and counter-terrorism operations, law enforcement and security tasks, narcotics detection, thermal imaging, wildfire response, post-disaster search and rescue, environmental pollution monitoring, agricultural applications, oil and gas pipeline security, energy infrastructure inspections, and search and rescue operations.

BULUT is fully autonomous and capable of taking off and landing without the need for a runway. It is also equipped with an EO/IR/LRF integrated camera system and features a handover capability, allowing mission control to be transferred between ground control stations—an essential feature for security forces.

Commenting on BULUT, HAVELSAN General Manager Dr. Mehmet Akif Nacar stated that they had developed a system that provides operational superiority in the field, fully aligned with the expectations of the Presidency of Defense Industries. He emphasized, “The SSB and our security forces played a significant role in the development of our new UAV, BULUT. The primary reason why BULUT quickly entered inventory and is now actively used in the field is our team's rapid response to these expectations. I congratulate everyone involved in the project.”

HAVELSAN Deputy General Manager for Simulation, Autonomous, and Platform Management Technologies, Muhittin Solmaz, noted that BAHA was the company’s first UAV experience, and after three years of development, BULUT has further strengthened security forces. “BULUT, built upon the field experience of BAHA, will be a game-changer in its category. We wholeheartedly believe in this,” he said.

HAVELSAN Product Development and ELD Director Veysel Ataoglu highlighted that BULUT is actively used in operational areas and that the team continuously improves the product based on field feedback. He added, “Following BARKAN and BAHA, BULUT has successfully completed various acceptance processes by the SSB and security forces, officially joining the inventory. We are also working on different versions of BULUT.”

**15 . Date: 25-02-2025M-Rotary - ISR / ISTAR - Mini - Partnership - Volatus and Ondas Forge Strategic Partnership to Elevate Border Surveillance with Advanced Drone TechnologiesURL: https://www.asdnews.com/news/defense/2025/02/25/volatus-ondas-forge-strategic-partnership-elevate-border-surveillance-with-advanced-drone-technologies**

Volatus Aerospace Inc. (TSXV: FLT) (OTCQX: TAKOF) (Frankfurt: A2JEQU) ("Volatus" or "the Company") and Boston-based Ondas Holdings Inc. (Nasdaq: ONDS) announced today a strategic partnership through Ondas' subsidiary, American Robotics, Inc. (“American Robotics”). Through this partnership, Volatus Aerospace will market and support American Robotics’ Optimus System – a state-of-the-art, fully autonomous drone platform designed to provide persistent, 24/7 aerial security and intelligence. The Optimus System significantly enhances Volatus Aerospace's capabilities in providing integrated, full-scope Border Surveillance and Security Solutions that are essential to national security.

This partnership will:

"This strategic alliance empowers Volatus to significantly enhance our border surveillance and security solutions,” said Glen Lynch, CEO of Volatus Aerospace. “By integrating the scalable, field-proven Optimus System with our remote operations, we are ready to meet evolving security and surveillance needs. The growing demand for autonomous border security solutions highlights the importance of this partnership.”

Market forecasts by Region, Class, Type, and End-User. Country Analysis, Market and Technology Overview. Opportunities Analysis, and Leading Company Profiles

Focused on addressing the increasing demand for advanced border surveillance, this collaboration leverages Volatus’ sophisticated Operations Control Center (OCC) to maximize the potential of the Optimus System for both standalone and integrated, border security solutions across North America and other global markets. By integrating both air and ground security intelligence, this approach significantly enhances the ability to detect and mitigate threats before they escalate.

"We are delighted to partner with Volatus, who consistently distinguish themselves as providers of highly sophisticated aerial intelligence and services to critical governmental, industrial and infrastructure markets,” Eric Brock, CEO of Ondas Holdings. “We believe this collaboration, supported by Volatus’ extensive sales, marketing and field support and services capabilities, will extend our market reach and accelerate market penetration for our Optimus System. We are particularly excited about Volatus’ pursuit of programs to secure borders, where the deployment of autonomous drone infrastructure is an urgent need for many homeland security entities today."

The Optimus System is designed for persistent aerial operations in the most challenging environments with proven autonomy and reliability allowing for scalable remote operations. Optimus automated battery and payload swapping capabilities enable uninterrupted availability and support multiple critical applications ranging from video surveillance to inspection and analysis utilizing a variety of integrated sensors including LIDAR. This partnership is set to transform the landscape of border surveillance, security, and critical infrastructure monitoring, integrating advanced aerial technologies including piloted and remotely piloted aircraft, along with ground-based sensor systems. This integrated package of aerial security capability, including the NDAA-compliant Optimus System is positioned to address the expansive 8,890 kilometer US – Canada border to revolutionize border security operations.

Highlights of the Strategic Partnership:

In the current international environment, the need for sovereign countries to protect and secure their borders has become increasingly critical. Challenges such as illegal immigration, drug trafficking, and weapons smuggling pose significant threats to national security and public safety. As these issues continue to escalate, there is a growing demand for advanced surveillance and security solutions that can provide comprehensive monitoring and rapid response capabilities. The strategic partnership between Ondas and Volatus Aerospace, leveraging the state-of-the-art Optimus System amongst a diverse fleet, addresses these pressing concerns by offering a robust, autonomous aerial platform designed to enhance border protection and ensure the integrity of national boundaries. Furthermore, the integration of emergency response capabilities within the Optimus System allows for a more effective response to identified threats. By providing real-time data and situational awareness, the system enhances the ability to mitigate risks swiftly and efficiently, ensuring a proactive approach to national security challenges.

**16 . Date: 26-02-2025Partnership - Hensoldt and QinetiQ Germany Expand Their CooperationURL: https://www.asdnews.com/news/defense/2025/02/26/hensoldt-qinetiq-germany-expand-their-cooperation**

The sensor solutions provider HENSOLDT and QinetiQ Germany have strengthened their collaboration in the field of uncrewed aerial vehicles and systems, with ESG Elektroniksystem- und Logistik-GmbH serving as the prime contractor.

This strengthened alliance supports QinetiQ's Global Threat Representation strategy, reinforcing its reputation as a global service provider for military exercises, from operational analysis to implementing new capabilities.

The expanded partnership focuses on three key areas including:

Market forecasts by Region, Class, Type, and End-User. Country Analysis, Market and Technology Overview. Opportunities Analysis, and Leading Company Profiles

This partnership builds on years of successful cooperation between, QinetiQ and HENSOLDT in Germany and Europe particularly in airborne radar systems using PC-12 test aircraft and the supply of reconnaissance technology for QinetiQ's fleet.

With key locations in Bavaria and Schleswig-Holstein, QinetiQ and HENSOLDT are well-positioned to support the German Armed Forces and other security authorities in operating uncrewed systems.

HENSOLDT has been integrated as a certified body by the German Armed Forces Aviation Office for military uncrewed aerial vehicles of category IIa. This category encompasses drones used for flight target presentation, prototypes and system demonstrators.

HENSOLDT will also act as a recognised training and certified testing centre for remote pilots of civil uncrewed aircraft in QinetiQ's category 2c, which includes drones that do not require prior approval. As a multi-certified body, HENSOLDT can provide comprehensive system support within this strengthened partnership.

Thorsten Heil, Head of Flight Operations at HENSOLDT in Germany, added: "As a reliable technology and innovation partner and an approved aviation company for both uncrewed and crewed aircraft, we are committed to developing specific, customer-oriented, and market-driven solutions that maintain our armed forces' defence capabilities and enhance public safety. The intensified cooperation with QinetiQ is a critical step towards improving education and training for uncrewed aircraft and systems in Germany, contributing to the sustainable strengthening of our security."

Matthias Grögor, Head of Strategic Business Development at QinetiQ in Germany, said: "Through our partnership with HENSOLDT, we demonstrate a proven collaboration with the German Armed Forces and other security authorities, backed by years of successful work, particularly with the German Air Force,” Matthias said.

“Together, we aim to expand our services in uncrewed systems - from development and certification to education and training, around our Bavarian location in Augsburg, helping to establish Bavaria as a leading hub for drone technology."

**17 . Date: 06-03-2025Fixed Wing - Target Drone - Tactical - Contract - Naval Air Systems Command Awards Kratos Additional $59.3M for BQM-177A Subsonic Aerial Target Systems; Total Contract Value Exceeds $175MURL: https://www.asdnews.com/news/defense/2025/03/06/naval-air-systems-command-awards-kratos-additional-593m-bqm177a-subsonic-aerial-target-systems-total-contract-value-exceeds-175m**

Kratos Defense & Security Solutions, Inc. (NASDAQ: KTOS), a Technology Company in the Defense, National Security and Global Markets, and industry-leading provider of high-performance, jet-powered unmanned aerial systems, announced today that Kratos has received $59,338,010 for an additional 70 BQM-177A Subsonic Aerial Target (SSAT) aircraft through the exercise of the contract option for Full Rate Production (FRP) Lot 6. When combined with the base award and exercise of FRP Lot 5, the resulting overall value of FRP Lots 4 through 6 totals $177,702,962. Total contract value if the remaining option for Lot 7 is exercised at the maximum production quantity will be $227,647,890.

Steve Fendley, President of Kratos Unmanned Systems Division, said, “Since the first Full Rate Production contract award in October 2020, the world has undergone impactful economic and political shifts creating significant production challenges across our industry and increased need for development, test, and training associated with our country’s current and upcoming weapons systems. On behalf of all the dedicated men and women at Kratos, we will collectively continue to do our utmost to support our warfighters with this high-fidelity threat surrogate.”

The majority of the work under this contract will be conducted in Kratos facilities in Sacramento, CA, and Fort Walton Beach, FL.

Market forecasts by Region, Operation Mode, and Platform Type. Country Analysis, Market and Technology Overview, Opportunities and Scenario Analysis, and Leading Company Profiles

**18 . Date: 06-03-2025H-Rotary - Cargo - Tactical - General - Schiebel Camcopter S-100 UAS Selected by EDA for Cross-domain Logistics ProgrammeURL: https://www.asdnews.com/news/defense/2025/03/06/schiebel-camcopter-s100-uas-selected-eda-crossdomain-logistics-programme**

Under the Hub for European Defence Innovation (HEDI), EDA has established the “Autonomous Systems for Cross-Domain Logistics (Air and Land)” programme and selected Schiebel’s CAMCOPTER® S-100 for the heavy-lift Vertical Takeoff and Landing (VTOL) Unmanned Air System category.

The large-scale initative, hosted by the Italian Army, will focus on collaborative experimentation of UAS and Unmanned Ground Systems (UGS). In June and July 2025, several simulated missions, e.g. last-mile resupply in hostile environments, will be demonstrated. The CAMCOPTER® S-100 was selected for the above 50kg payload category, and will conduct the trials together with two smaller UAS and three UGS.

The role of autonomous systems in today’s military is increasingly requiring interoperability, particularly for cross-domain operations and logistical support, significantly enhancing efficiency and effectiveness in challenging environments.

Market forecasts by Region, Class, Type, and End-User. Country Analysis, Market and Technology Overview. Opportunities Analysis, and Leading Company Profiles

HEDI aims at accelerating and streamlining the integration of emerging technologies into military applications through immersive operational and technical field testing in a collaborative and agile environment.

“This programme, which is the first of its kind by EDA, closely follows three other tenders won by Schiebel in the European Union, including a new contract for the European Maritime Safety Agency, as well as the European Defence Fund’s SEACURE and OPTIMAS consortiums. With its unrivalled experience, maturity and proven performance, the S-100 is the logical choice and we’re looking forward to showcase our capabilities at the upcoming experimentation,” said Hans Georg Schiebel, Chairman of the Schiebel Group.

**19 . Date: 10-03-2025Fixed Wing - Armed ISR / ISTAR - MALE - General - PayloadMarine Corps MQ-9 Reapers Enhanced With Advanced Payload UpgradeURL: https://www.asdnews.com/news/defense/2025/03/10/marine-corps-mq9-reapers-enhanced-with-advanced-payload-upgrade**

The Navy’s MQ-9 Reaper test squadron at Pax River received the first SkyTower II (STII) pod in preparation for the system’s initial operational capability (IOC) next year.

Air Test and Evaluation (UX) 24 loaded the new pod onto the aircraft Feb. 25, conducting initial power on checks, the first step into integrating the new capability into the aircraft platform.

“The program is excited to deliver SkyTower II for testing, marking a major milestone in our development journey,” said Capt. Dennis Monagle, Multi-Mission Tactical UAS program manager. “Over the past two years, we’ve partnered with GALT, a small business prime vendor, to rapidly develop this unique capability using middle-tier acquisition, accelerating innovation for the warfighter. With robust system and integration testing now underway, we remain on track to achieve initial operating capability this year, delivering critical capability to the U.S. Marine Corps and the joint forces.”

Market forecasts by Region, Class, Type, and End-User. Country Analysis, Market and Technology Overview. Opportunities Analysis, and Leading Company Profiles

STII is an airborne network extension pod that enhances cross-domain communication capabilities and links communications between disparate forces. It is required to execute the Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (ISR) concept of operations by providing tactically relevant operational communications and data sharing capabilities with many forces in support of the MQ-9 Reapers’ operational mission.

UX-24 also completed a fit check of the MQ-9 in the large anechoic chamber at Pax River in late February. The team conducted a number of tests and hoisted the aircraft for the first time as a risk reduction for upcoming program efforts. The tests proved the ability to safely hang the aircraft while providing power, cooling and satellite link with the aircraft for communications, command and control.

Over the next several months, UX-24 will conduct final test events before delivering the upgraded MQ-9s to the fleet.

“The team has been able to accomplish a lot of work in a very compressed timeline by developing and executing these test plans for the chamber event and STII testing," said Cmdr. Lauren Lawson, MQ-9 government flight test director. "The dedication shown and technical challenges they’ve overcome to conduct this critical testing to help develop the best product possible to support the Marines is truly commendable."

VMU-3 is currently flying MQ-9’s in theater today and will be the first to deploy with this new system in 2026.

The MQ-9 Reaper provides Marines with a long-range ISR capability in support of maritime domain awareness and expeditionary advanced based operations in contested environments.

**20 . Date: 12-03-2025Fixed Wing - Armed ISR / ISTAR - MALE - General - DatalinkGA-ASI's Gray Eagle ER Makes 1st PLEO FlightsURL: https://www.asdnews.com/news/defense/2025/03/12/gaasis-gray-eagle-er-makes-1st-pleo-flights**

General Atomics Aeronautical Systems, Inc. (GA-ASI) conducted its first flight test series of the Gray Eagle Extended Range (GE-ER) Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) using a Proliferated Low Earth Orbit (PLEO) satellite constellation for aircraft communications. Contracted by the U.S. Army, the flight tests began in January 2025 and mark a significant milestone, making GE-ER the first U.S. Army aircraft to be controlled over the new satellite service. Gray Eagle is also the only U.S. Army UAS capable of leveraging Geostationary Earth Orbit (GEO), Low Earth Orbit (LEO) and PLEO constellations for secure, inflight adaptable and resilient communication, navigation and data management.

The initial testing focused on flight-critical operations, including core aircraft control functions as well as sensor and communications systems. To date, GA-ASI has conducted two GE-ER flights and a series of ground test events using PLEO. Future flight testing is in the planning stages and includes operations across the full flight regime.

The Gray Eagle family of UAS is built on a Modular Open Systems Approach (MOSA) design that includes standardized interfaces and protocols. This approach has enabled rapid integration of the PLEO constellation and other significant capabilities without major technical efforts or extended timelines for integration and testing so new capabilities can be fielded faster.

Market forecasts by Region, Class, Type, and End-User. Country Analysis, Market and Technology Overview. Opportunities Analysis, and Leading Company Profiles

“The PLEO integration and flight testing continue to show that the current GE-ER open architecture is real. We are practicing rapid integration now which will prove critical to the platform’s survivability and mission success in Multi-Domain Operations,” said GA-ASI Vice President of Army Programs Don Cattell.

Building on the GE-ER, the Gray Eagle 25M (GE 25M), takes MOSA to the next level with a government-owned, government-controlled open architecture that enables plug-and-play capabilities to ensure the platform’s rapid, low-cost adaptability to changing threats. GE 25M incorporates open architecture with ground systems, advanced and modular datalinks, and an upgraded propulsion system. These powerful additions significantly enhance the platform’s ability to rapidly add new capabilities, provide resilience to electronic threats, and deliver expeditionary employment to austere locations. PLEO will be a baseline capability for the 25M system.

The PLEO capability for the GE 25M is just one of several features of the system that maximizes the survivability of the platform. It also provides a low-cost opportunity to drastically increase the operational flexibility of both the Gray Eagle ER and Gray Eagle 25M. The 25M’s MOSA architecture enables use of the higher data rates available on the PLEO system and supports flight operations across the globe from pole to pole. These capabilities, combined with longer-range sensors, anti-jam navigation, and expeditionary ground control systems allow the Gray Eagles to operate outside the threat weapons envelope, but deliver effects hundreds of kilometers beyond the Forward Line of Own Troops, making GE 25M the most survivable aircraft in the Army inventory.

**21 . Date: 14-03-2025Partnership - Overwatch and Milrem Robotics Announce Strategic Collaboration to Advance Unmanned Defence CapabilitiesURL: https://www.asdnews.com/news/defense/2025/03/14/overwatch-milrem-robotics-announce-strategic-collaboration-advance-unmanned-defence-capabilities**

Overwatch, a British aerospace and defence business specialising in the design and manufacture of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), and Milrem Robotics, the world’s leading robotics and autonomous systems developer, have signed a collaboration agreement to drive product development, production, and sales of cutting-edge unmanned defence solutions worldwide.

Under this collaboration, Overwatch and Milrem Robotics will undertake joint research and development assessments to explore possibilities for integrating capabilities, payloads, and effects between Overwatch’s UAVs and Milrem Robotics’ unmanned ground vehicles (UGVs), with the aim of developing highly interoperable unmanned systems.

Both parties will engage in collaborative test and evaluation efforts to advance operational capabilities and deliver enhanced performance under realistic mission conditions.

Market forecasts by Region, User, Application, Platform, Size, and Power Source. Country Analysis, Market and Technology Overview, Opportunities and Scenario Analysis, and Leading Company Profiles

“Overwatch is thrilled to embark on this strategic collaboration with Milrem Robotics,” said Drew Michael, CEO at Overwatch. “By leveraging our respective strengths in UAV and UGV technologies, we aim to deliver unparalleled unmanned defence capabilities to meet the evolving needs of our customers worldwide.”

“We look forward to working closely with Overwatch to expand our product portfolios and address emerging market demands,” said Kuldar Väärsi, CEO of Milrem Robotics. “By combining our expertise and jointly exploring R&D and testing, we expect to develop integrated solutions that will significantly enhance operational effectiveness and mission success for our clients,” he added.

The companies will also coordinate marketing activities to promote each other’s products beyond their domestic markets, opening up new business opportunities across global defence sectors.

**22 . Date: 20-03-2025Regulation - GA-ASI Achieves EMAR/FR 145 Maintenance Organization Approval for MQ-9A and MQ-9B PlatformsURL: https://www.asdnews.com/news/defense/2025/03/20/gaasi-achieves-emarfr-145-maintenance-organization-approval-mq9a-mq9b-platforms**

General Atomics Aeronautical Systems, Inc. (GA-ASI), a world leader in unmanned aircraft systems (UAS), has received the prestigious EMAR/FR 145 Maintenance Organization Approval for component maintenance from the French Military Continuing Airworthiness Authority, DSAE. This approval underscores GA-ASI’s commitment to the highest standards of safety, compliance, and operational excellence in military aviation.

The EMAR framework is a set of regulations developed from commercial aerospace standards (FAA/EASA) that are designed to ensure airworthiness for European military aircraft. It establishes a common airworthiness framework recognized by military airworthiness authorities worldwide. EMAR/FR 145 certification authorizes maintenance organizations to perform critical maintenance tasks while ensuring strict adherence to safety, reliability, and documentation requirements.

GA-ASI’s EMAR/FR 145 approval allows the company to issue EMAR Form 1s (Return to Service forms) for components serviced by the approved maintenance organization, confirming the safety and airworthiness of the equipment. This recognition applies to GA-ASI’s maintenance activities at its Poway and Adelanto, California, facilities and covers CAT C (component maintenance) services.

Market forecasts by Region, Class, Type, and End-User. Country Analysis, Market and Technology Overview. Opportunities Analysis, and Leading Company Profiles

“This approval is a significant achievement for GA-ASI, positioning the company to better serve international customers, especially military users of our MQ-9A and MQ-9B UAS platforms,” said Sam Richardson, GA-ASI vice president of Sustainment. “The ability to leverage the EMAR/FR 145 certification streamlines the company’s processes, reduces costs, and accelerates future airworthiness pursuits, as many future customers will recognize this certification rather than requiring a full, independent certification process.”

By obtaining EMAR/FR 145 approval, GA-ASI further demonstrates its ability to meet the stringent demands of the global defense market. The framework’s widespread recognition ensures that GA-ASI can expand operations and offer high-quality, compliant maintenance services to international customers, ultimately driving company growth in global markets.

This certification offers significant operational and financial benefits for both GA-ASI and its customers. For GA-ASI, the approval reduces future oversight costs by leveraging the DSAE Audit Team’s oversight activities, ensuring a more efficient and cost-effective certification process for future non-French EMAR customers. For customers, the EMAR/FR 145 approval provides a framework recognized internationally, offering a streamlined maintenance certification process. The recognition agreements between EMAR and non-EMAR countries allow future customers to leverage GA-ASI’s French approval, saving time and resources compared to a full certification effort.

**23 . Date: 25-03-2025Fixed Wing - Armed ISR / ISTAR - MALE - General - GA-ASI Completes 1st Flight of Belgium's MQ-9B SkyGuardianURL: https://www.asdnews.com/news/defense/2025/03/25/gaasi-completes-1st-flight-belgiums-mq9b-skyguardian**

General Atomics Aeronautical Systems, Inc. (GA-ASI) and the Belgian Ministry of Defence completed the first flight of a new MQ-9B SkyGuardian® Remotely Piloted Aircraft (RPA) that will be the first SkyGuardian delivered to Belgium as part of a four-aircraft purchase. The flight was based out of GA-ASI’s Desert Horizon Flight Operations Facility in El Mirage, California and took place on February 20, 2025.

First flight is part of a series of ground and flight tests conducted to validate the performance of the Belgian MQ-9B RPA. The objective of the flight was to prove controllability and safe landing of the aircraft. The flight was successful, and the program will move forward with further development flight tests.

“We’re excited to complete the first flight of SkyGuardian for Belgium,” said Chris Dusseault, vice president of MQ-9B in Europe. “Belgium joins the U.K.’s Royal Air Force and will become the second country to take delivery of our MQ-9B in Europe.”

Market forecasts by Region, Class, Type, and End-User. Country Analysis, Market and Technology Overview. Opportunities Analysis, and Leading Company Profiles

MQ-9B is the world’s most advanced RPAS, delivering exceptionally long endurance and range—with auto takeoff and landing under pole-to-pole SATCOM-only control—and will be able to operate in unsegregated airspace using the GA-ASI-developed Detect and Avoid system. MQ-9B includes the SkyGuardian and SeaGuardian® models, with multiple deliveries made to the U.K.’s Royal Air Force (Protector), as well as orders from Canada, Poland, the Japan Coast Guard, the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force, Taiwan, India, and the U.S. Air Force in support of the Special Operations Command. MQ-9B has also supported various U.S. Navy exercises, including Northern Edge, Integrated Battle Problem, and Group Sail.

The Foreign Military Sale (FMS) to Belgium also includes two Certifiable Ground Control Stations (CGCS).

**24 . Date: 27-03-2025Hybrid Rotary / Fixed Wing - ISR / ISTAR - Small - General - TEKEVER AR3 Surpassed 10,000 Operational Flight Hours in UkraineURL: https://www.asdnews.com/news/defense/2025/03/27/tekever-ar3-surpassed-10000-operational-flight-hours-ukraine**

TEKEVER has announced that its AR3 drone platform has successfully completed over 10,000 operational flight hours in Ukraine, supporting critical intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) missions in real-world combat scenarios.

The milestone underscores the AR3’s combat-proven reliability, versatility, and technical maturity, following extensive deployment in one of the most demanding operational environments in the world today. Designed and manufactured in Europe, the AR3 has undergone more than 100 design iterations, shaped by constant feedback from front-line operations and real-time mission requirements.

“The AR3 has demonstrated its value in the most extreme conditions imaginable,” said Ricardo Mendes, CEO of TEKEVER. “Surpassing 10,000 flight hours in Ukraine is not just a number — it’s proof of the trust that armed forces place in our technology to deliver real-time intelligence when lives are on the line. We’re proud to be part of a mission that contributes to greater situational awareness, operational efficiency, and ultimately, the protection of lives.”

Market forecasts by Region, Class, Type, and End-User. Country Analysis, Market and Technology Overview. Opportunities Analysis, and Leading Company Profiles

“At TEKEVER, we believe that innovation must be driven by real operational needs. Every flight, every mission, every lesson learned from Ukraine has been fed directly into the evolution of our platform,” Mendes added.

The AR3 is a tactical UAS designed for both land and maritime ISR operations. With its extended endurance, modular payload architecture, and fully autonomous operation capabilities, it has become a key tool for defence and security forces across Europe and beyond.

Looking ahead, TEKEVER continues to invest in advancing the AR3 and its broader range of UAS solutions, integrating AI-powered analytics, swarming capabilities, and secure communications to support the future of multi-domain operations.

**25 . Date: 28-03-2025Hybrid Rotary / Fixed Wing - ISR / ISTAR - Small - Partnership - Airbus Partners With Drone Forge to Advance Flexrotor in Asia PacificURL: https://www.asdnews.com/news/defense/2025/03/28/airbus-partners-with-drone-forge-advance-flexrotor-asia-pacific**

Australian aerospace start-up Drone Forge and Airbus have signed a Letter of Intent (LOI) to collaborate on the deployment and operational integration of the Flexrotor uncrewed aerial system.

This agreement, which includes the acquisition of Flexrotor systems, marks a critical step towards transforming uncrewed aviation with game-changing solutions and technologies tailored for tactical operations.

“This partnership between Airbus and Drone Forge is a giant leap forward in the evolution and progress of the UAV industry. When we deliver a capability or product to a customer, they expect a proven solution, partnerships committed to safety, and teams that can provide world class support. This partnership will provide customers with all of these and more,” said Thomas Symes, Chief Executive Officer of Drone Forge.

Market forecasts by Region, Class, Type, and End-User. Country Analysis, Market and Technology Overview. Opportunities Analysis, and Leading Company Profiles

Symes added: “The Asia-Pacific region presents a significant opportunity for a UAV solution like the Flexrotor. Built on Drone Forge’s values of trust and performance, this partnership with Airbus aims to fully commercialise the Flexrotor across commercial, government, and defence sectors.”

“This agreement outlines a shared commitment to explore opportunities for implementing innovative Flexrotor technologies in the region. Designed as a force multiplier for diverse missions in defence and security applications, this partnership signals strong confidence in our Flexrotor capabilities and offers perfect crewed-uncrewed teaming possibilities for aircraft operators,” said William Sampson, Head of Market Operations of Airbus Helicopters.

As part of Drone Forge’s portfolio expansion, the company has established a UAS service centre in Perth, Western Australia, to provide training, maintenance and support services for a range of UAS including the Flexrotor.

The Flexrotor, is Airbus’ newest addition to its UAS portfolio. A modern Vertical Takeoff and Landing (VTOL) uncrewed aircraft with a maximum launch weight of 25 kg (55 lbs), it has been designed for ISTAR missions for more than 12-14 hours in a typical operational configuration. It can integrate different types of payloads including an electro-optical system and advanced sensors to suit customers’ unique mission needs. With the ability to autonomously launch and recover from either land or sea requiring only a 3.7 by 3.7 m (12 by 12 ft.) area, the Flexrotor is ideal for expeditionary missions requiring minimal footprint. Through the support of the US Department of Defence (DoD), and contracted deployment in a variety of maritime security exercises, the Flexrotor is a mission-proven, force multiplier for operations in harsh, high-threat, GPS-denied environments.

The Flexrotor is also being operated for parapublic missions such as forest fire surveillance (providing firefighters with critical images day or night) and can address other demanding mission needs, including ice navigation (helping guide naval vessels through ice in the Arctic ocean), law enforcement, and border patrol.

**26 . Date: 31-03-2025Hybrid Rotary / Fixed Wing - Armed ISR / ISTAR - Small - General - PlatformMayman Aerospace RAZOR VTOL Achieves Historic Milestone with Fully Autonomous Inaugural FlightURL: https://www.asdnews.com/news/defense/2025/03/31/mayman-aerospace-razor-vtol-achieves-historic-milestone-with-fully-autonomous-inaugural-flight**

In a great advance for Vertical Takeoff and Landing (VTOL) Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS), Mayman Aerospace today announced the successful completion of test flights for the RAZOR P100, which will be the first commercial aircraft in the company's family of autonomous UAS. The achievement marks a major milestone not only for RAZOR but for the company's strategic vision and market position.

The test program, conducted at the US Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center located at Twentynine Palms, CA validated 18 months of meticulous engineering and development efforts. Most notably, the tests included the successful inaugural un-tethered flights of the RAZOR 100, which operated with complete autonomy while executing complex flight maneuvers that demonstrated the sophisticated capabilities of RAZOR's proprietary flight control software called SKYFIELD™.

SKYFIELD, the company's advanced AI-driven autonomous flight control system, will enable numerous RAZOR aircraft to navigate complex environments without human intervention, making critical adjustments in real-time based on operational conditions. This autonomous AI-driven decision-making capability will also allow the platform to adapt to changing mission parameters and environmental factors with precision and reliability.

Market forecasts by Region, Class, Type, and End-User. Country Analysis, Market and Technology Overview. Opportunities Analysis, and Leading Company Profiles

"These flights represent the culmination of extraordinary engineering expertise and relentless dedication from our team," said David Mayman, Founder & CEO at Mayman Aerospace. "What we've accomplished positions us at the vanguard of autonomous VTOL flight technology. There is simply nothing comparable to the RAZOR family of aircraft available in today's market, and these successful tests validate our innovative approach to solving complex challenges in this domain."

In addition to the P100's series of tests, the program featured the first extended range flight of the RAZOR TBX, while successfully carrying a payload of 50 pounds. This fully autonomous beyond-visual-line-of-sight (BVLOS) operation marked the 26th flight for the TBX platform, which continues to serve as both a reliable workhorse and an invaluable testbed for ongoing research and development initiatives.

"I couldn't be more proud of the team's accomplishments," remarked company Chief of Staff, Daniel Fox. "The warfighter has been waiting for a solution that combines the versatility, autonomy, and reliability that RAZOR delivers. The success of these test flights demonstrates not only our technical capabilities but also our understanding of what operators truly need in the field."

"From an engineering perspective, what we've achieved in just 18 months is extraordinary," explained Dr. Manu Sharma, the company's Chief Engineer. "Our team has overcome significant technical challenges to develop flight control systems that enable unprecedented levels of autonomy and precision. The speed of our progress speaks to both the talent of our engineers and the effectiveness of our approach towards development. These achievements are setting the foundation for SKYFIELD, which will push the boundaries even further."

SKYFIELD will transform onboard single-aircraft control into an autonomous AI-driven mission management system. It will enable seamless swarming, integrated with Battle Management Systems (BMS) offering commanders a unified airborne capability. Deploying a robust and secure zero-trust mesh architecture, SKYFIELD will enable flawless operation in GPS denied and heavily contested Electronic Warfare (EW) environments.

Looking ahead to the remainder of 2025, Mayman Aerospace will focus on expanding the operational envelope of both the P100 and TBX platforms, with particular emphasis on enhancing payload capabilities, extending flight range, and refining the SKYFIELD autonomous decision-making algorithms that set RAZOR apart from conventional UAS systems.

**27 . Date: 01-04-2025Hybrid Rotary / Fixed Wing - ISR / ISTAR - Small - General - PlatformShield AI's V-BAT Successfully Demos Resilience to EW at Project Convergence Capstone 5URL: https://www.asdnews.com/news/defense/2025/04/01/shield-ais-vbat-successfully-demos-resilience-ew-at-project-convergence-capstone-5**

**28 . Date: 07-04-2025Fixed Wing - Armed ISR / ISTAR - MALE - General - PayloadGA-ASI Expands Targeting Capability for MQ-9B SeaGuardianURL: https://www.asdnews.com/news/defense/2025/04/07/gaasi-expands-targeting-capability-mq9b-seaguardian**

**29 . Date: 23-04-2025Fixed Wing - Armed ISR / ISTAR - MALE - General - Marines Surpass 1,000 MQ-9A Flight Hours As Capabilities ExpandURL: https://www.asdnews.com/news/defense/2025/04/23/marines-surpass-1000-mq9a-flight-hours-as-capabilities-expand**

General Atomics Aeronautical Systems, Inc. is proud to announce that the U.S. Marine Corps has passed more than 1,000 flight hours with MQ-9A unmanned aircraft in support of service-level training exercises and weapons and tactics instructor courses. This accomplishment involved a combined aircrew of dedicated Marines and GA-ASI personnel, highlighting the seamless integration and operational effectiveness of the MQ-9A platform within the Marine Air-Ground Task Force (MAGTF) and the MAGTF Unmanned Expeditionary (MUX) Program.

These demanding exercises showcased the advanced capabilities of the MQ-9A by integrating cutting-edge technologies such as the SkyTower networking support pod, Automatic Identification System, latest-generation Lynx® multi-mode radar and various other tactical networks and capabilities. The joint teams successfully conducted satellite launch and recovery activities operating out of a strategic expeditionary landing field near Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif., further demonstrating the platform’s precision targeting and reconnaissance abilities in realistic training scenarios.

Previously, an uncrewed aircraft required a crew positioned at the airfield where it was operating to fly it for takeoff via direct line-of-site radio link. Then a mission crew could take over the aircraft from anywhere via satellite. Today, satellite launch and recovery means the main Marine mission crew, which can be sited anywhere, flies the aircraft from takeoff via the satellite link. This capability, validated in the Marine Corps operations, enables huge flexibility and expands the locations from which units can operate.

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A key element of these exercises also included not only live-fire training but also comprehensive mission planning, networked communications, and multi-domain coordination. These events provided invaluable experience in integrating the MQ-9A into complex, distributed combat scenarios across the full range of Marine Air-Ground Task Force operations. From supporting maneuver elements with real-time intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance to validating command and control networks, the MQ-9A consistently demonstrated its adaptability and operational value. This milestone underscores the platform’s critical role in enhancing situational awareness, mission execution, and overall effectiveness across the battlespace.

“Reaching 1,000 flight hours for these rigorous training exercises alongside our Marine Corps and Air Force partners is a testament to the reliability and adaptability of the MQ-9A platform,” said GA-ASI President David R. Alexander. “This achievement highlights the power of collaboration and the critical role the MQ-9A can play in supporting the MAGTF’s mission readiness.”

The successful integration of the MQ-9A platform across recent operations represents a major milestone in aligning capability with the MAGTF construct. These events showcased the MQ-9A’s ability to support distributed operations, extend sensor coverage, and provide persistent intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance in support of dynamic mission sets. The coordinated efforts of Marines and GA-ASI personnel underscored the platform’s high degree of interoperability and its growing role in enabling expeditionary operations in contested environments.

To date, GA-ASI has delivered 17 MQ-9A UAS to USMC. The USMC awaits delivery of three additional aircraft by the end of this year.

**30 . Date: 25-04-2025Hybrid Rotary / Fixed Wing - ISR / ISTAR - Small - General - BAHA UAV Officially Inducted into Turkish Land Forces InventoryURL: https://www.asdnews.com/news/defense/2025/04/25/baha-uav-officially-inducted-into-turkish-land-forces-inventory**

The Turkish Ministry of National Defense has announced that the Sub-Cloud Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) BAHA, which was procured in various quantities by the Land Forces Command, has successfully completed its inspection and acceptance procedures and has officially entered into the inventory of the Turkish Armed Forces.

Developed by HAVELSAN and inducted into the Turkish Armed Forces' inventory in 2024, BAHA marks a significant milestone through the journey of Digital Troops which was conceptualised first in 2021. Following the earlier induction of BARKAN, the first unmanned ground vehicle (UGV) of the Digital Troops, BAHA’s integration further strengthens the Turkish military’s modernization efforts.

Anticipating the requirements of future operational environments, HAVELSAN has begun to deploy its unmanned systems domestically and internationally. BAHA, an important element of this vision, achieved export successes in Africa, Central Asia, and the MENA region in 2023 and 2024 and has now been made available for use by national security forces.

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Demonstrating its versatility beyond military operations, BAHA was also deployed during a disaster and earthquake drill coordinated by AFAD (Disaster and Emergency Management Authority) for rubble reconnaissance and surveillance missions.

Speaking at the Ministry of National Defense Weekly Press Briefing, Rear Admiral Zeki Aktürk emphasized the growing capabilities of the Turkish Armed Forces through indigenous defense industry products, stating,

"With our domestically developed defense industry products, which aim to enhance our national and international power and influence, the capabilities of the Turkish Armed Forces continue to grow day by day. In this context, inspection and acceptance procedures for the Sub-Cloud Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (BAHA) procured by the Land Forces Command have been completed, and the systems have been inducted into our inventory."

General Specifications of BAHA:

Key Features of BAHA:

Developed with superior engineering solutions to meet the demands of modern armies, BAHA continues to enhance the operational capabilities of the Turkish Armed Forces and stands as a symbol of HAVELSAN’s commitment to technological excellence.

**31 . Date: 30-04-2025H-Rotary - Cargo - MALE - Partnership - SoftwareAirbus US Space & Defense, Shield AI Partner to Integrate Autonomy on Unmanned Aerial Logistics ConnectorURL: https://www.asdnews.com/news/defense/2025/04/30/airbus-us-space-defense-shield-ai-partner-integrate-autonomy-unmanned-aerial-logistics-connector**

Airbus U.S. Space & Defense and Shield AI announced a teaming agreement to integrate Shield AI’s Hivemind autonomy software on the Airbus MQ-72C Logistics Connector, an unmanned variant of the UH-72 Lakota. The collaboration will expand the platform’s mission capabilities through autonomy-enabled operations across a wide range of logistics and operational scenarios—including those under the U.S. Marine Corps’ Aerial Logistics Connector (ALC) program.

Under the agreement, Airbus U.S. Space & Defense and Shield AI will test Hivemind autonomy in collaboration with Airbus’ Helionix, advancing the future autonomous mission capabilities of the Marine Corps. The level of autonomy will be scaled during future test activities and demonstrations, ultimately leading to unmanned operations in contested logistics environments.

“The Lakota is a proven multi-mission platform that is ready to support unmanned operations in austere environments,” said Robert Geckle, Chairman and CEO of Airbus U.S. Space & Defense. “Pairing our aircraft with next-generation autonomy software opens new mission possibilities for the warfighter and allied forces worldwide.”

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The effort will continue to evolve missionization over the next several years, ultimately enabling more advanced levels of autonomous flight across the Marine Corps and broader Joint Force.

“Airbus is a world-class partner with a strong track record of delivering reliable systems for the warfighter,” said Ryan Tseng, CEO of Shield AI. “The Lakota has been a mainstay of military aviation for years—a widely-fielded, trusted platform used across a range of missions. Integrating Hivemind onto this aircraft shows how autonomy can rapidly enhance proven systems to meet the demands of today’s missions, and it’s a key step toward fully autonomous, uncrewed logistics operations that are scalable, resilient, and built for the future fight.”

The Airbus U.S. team is entering the second year of the Aerial Logistics Connector Middle Tier of Acquisition (MTA) Rapid Prototyping Program, which aims to provide the service with aircraft prototypes to demonstrate capabilities to the warfighter through a series of operational demonstrations and experiments.

The Aerial Logistics Connector effort is one of several efforts across the Department of Defense to deliver logistical support in distributed environments during peer or near- peer conflicts.