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SKYWAYS RECEIVE PRODUCTION TRIAL ENGINE

Unmanned cargo leaders Skyways progress to production unit testing with the Orbital UAV heavy fuel engine

PERTH, AUSTRALIA: Orbital Corporation Ltd ('Orbital UAV', 'the Company') is pleased to advise it has supplied a production trial engine to customer Skyways in support of its cargo transportation unmanned aircraft system ('UAS').

Delivery of the new engine follows the testing and evaluation of the prototype engine in 2022.

Blue Water program

Skyways is an emerging leader in the unmanned cargo domain and has been selected by the US

Navy's Naval Air Warfare Center Aircraft Division (NAWCAD) to compete for its Blue Water Maritime Logistics program. The Blue Water program will select a UAS capable of long-range naval ship-to-ship and ship-to-shore transport of critical supplies.

According to an announcement from NAWCAD¹, 90 per cent of Navy logistics deliveries weigh 50lbs (~23kg) or less.

"The Navy is currently identifying areas where unmanned logistics would be a critical enabler to operations at sea, and the Blue Water Maritime Logistics UAS is a great demonstration of this emerging requirement," said Col. Victor Argobright, Program Manager for the Navy and Marine Corps Small Tactical UAS program in the announcement.

As part of the NAWCAD selection process, in December 2022 Skyways operated its UAS through long-range flights from ship-to-ship, ship-to-shore, and shore-to-ship situations, carrying a variety of objects to mimic critical supplies. The Skyways system successfully delivered cargo over 200 nautical miles onto a moving ship.

With an increase in unmanned logistics, NAWCAD will continue to work with industry to develop systems that best meet maritime requirements.

The Skyways UAS is a leading contender in the US Navy's cargo logistics program

Image courtesy of Skyways





The future of tactical UAS

The Blue Water program represents another long-term, large scale defence program driving the future of tactical UAS – with Orbital UAV’s growing portfolio of customers at the forefront of these tender processes.

“The evaluation of Orbital’s prototype engine in 2022 provided the foundation on which the Skyways opportunity is building,” said Todd Alder, CEO and Managing Director of Orbital UAV. “Skyways are at the forefront of this new UAS capability and we are proud to be supplying them – and potentially the US Navy – with the most advanced heavy fuel UAV engines in the world,” he said.

For over a decade, Orbital UAV has been working with some of the world’s leading suppliers of tactical UAS to address the ever-changing challenges and increased requirements set out by the defence end user.

“Our FlexDI™ fuel injection technology has hundreds of thousands of hours of proven in-field performance. Combined with our industry leading engine design and production capability, Orbital UAV’s propulsion systems continue to provide a critical competitive advantage to our customers in the tactical UAS domain,” said Mr Alder.

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¹NAVAIR News: <https://www.navair.navy.mil/news/Navy-successfully-demonstrated-unmanned-cargo-delivery-systems-ship-sea/Wed-12212022-1419>

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About Orbital UAV

Orbital UAV provides integrated propulsion systems and flight critical components for tactical uncrewed aerial vehicles (UAVs). Our design thinking and patented technology enable us to meet the long endurance and high reliability requirements of the UAV market. We have offices in Australia and the United States to serve our prestigious client base.

Forward-looking statements

This release includes forward-looking statements that involve risks and uncertainties. These forward-looking statements are based upon management’s expectations and beliefs concerning future events. Forward-looking statements are necessarily subject to risks, uncertainties and other factors, many of which are outside the control of the Company that could cause actual results to differ materially from such statements. Actual results and events may differ significantly from those projected in the forward-looking statements as a result of a number of factors including, but not limited to, those detailed from time to time in the Company’s Annual Reports. The Company makes no undertaking to subsequently update or revise the forward-looking statements made in this release to reflect events or circumstances after the date of this release.

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