

News

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WE ARE FAMILY – BAE SYSTEMS DEVELOPING AUTONOMY ACROSS AIR, LAND AND SEA

San Diego - BAE Systems is demonstrating its air, land and sea autonomous capabilities at this year's AUVSI North America conference and exhibition, underlining the company's approach to developing unmanned technologies across all three domains, using common systems and system architectures.

The company's stand features the HERTI, Kingfisher, and Taranis unmanned air vehicles and the maritime unmanned vehicle Talisman. Ground based unmanned vehicles are represented by the Bowler Wildcat, a 4x4 test-bed vehicle currently being used to develop technology for autonomous land-based operations, the Supacat-based Digger autonomous ground vehicle and the HERO – an innovative autonomous, man-deployable vehicle.

Although each vehicle has been developed for operations in different environments they share common technology, developed through research and technology programmes across BAE Systems' global business.

"Obviously each environment has its own unique requirements but there are common elements in each and we are employing the required technologies where appropriate. In addition we are employing technology from across the entire business, to support an effective, consolidated mission control system for multiple unmanned vehicles," said Simon Jewell, Director of Strategic Capability Solutions at BAE Systems. "One possible use for these systems is joint operations with both manned and unmanned systems and integrating common technologies. Employing a single command and control system, will enhance interoperability and contribute to reduced training, support and upgrade costs in the future,"

"This approach has seen us achieve high levels of technological maturity in little more than three years. For example, HERTI has already been deployed to Afghanistan with the Royal Air Force as part of an ongoing programme named 'Project Morrigan'," continues Simon Jewell. "This interaction with the front line is vital as it allows us to adapt our development paths to ensure technologies and vehicles can be deployed, either independently or jointly, in the situations identified and required by the front line commands."

About BAE SYSTEMS

BAE Systems is the premier global defence and aerospace company delivering a full range of products and services for air, land and naval forces, as well as advanced electronics, information technology solutions and customer support services. With 97,500 employees worldwide, BAE Systems' sales exceeded £15.7 billion (US\$ \$31.4 billion) in 2007.

For further information, please contact:

Andy Bunce, BAE Systems

Tel: +44 (0) 1772 852714; Mobile: +44 (0) 7801 716448
andy.bunce@baesystems.com

Barney O'Kelly, BAE Systems

Tel: +44 (0) 1252 384717 Mob: + 44 (0)7803 667434
barney.okelly@baesystems.com

Issued by:

BAE Systems, Farnborough, Hampshire GU14 6YU, UK
Tel: +44 (0) 1252 384605 Fax: +44 (0) 1252 383947
24hr media hotline: + 44 (0) 7801 717739