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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Aurora Delivers First Ship Set of Composite Structures for the BAMS UAS Program**

Bridgeport, WV, January 3, 2012 – Aurora Flight Sciences today announced the delivery of the first complete ship set of composite aerospace structures to Northrop Grumman Corporation (**NYSE:NOC**) for the U.S. Navy’s Broad Area Maritime Surveillance Unmanned Aircraft System (BAMS UAS) program.

Aurora manufactures the aft fuselage, forward nacelle, mid nacelle, aft nacelle, and V-tail assemblies of the MQ-4C BAMS UAS aircraft at its composites manufacturing facility in Bridgeport, West Virginia. These structures are then shipped to Northrop Grumman’s manufacturing facility in Palmdale, California for final assembly.

“The delivery of the first ship set of flight hardware is a major step in this important program,” said John Langford, Aurora’s President and CEO. “We are proud of the role that Aurora plays to deliver affordable, high-quality composite structures to Northrop Grumman for the Navy BAMS UAS program.”

The MQ-4C BAMS UAS is the Navy version of the RQ-4 Global Hawk aircraft used by the U.S. Air Force to execute surveillance and reconnaissance tasks. The BAMS aircraft is expected to make its first flight in 2012. The MQ-4C is a long endurance UA that provides Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (ISR) information to the maritime forces. When it becomes operational, the BAMS UAS will provide military commanders with a persistent assessment of surface threats covering vast areas of open ocean and littoral regions.

Aurora has been a member of Northrop Grumman’s Q-4 Enterprise team since 1995. Aurora’s Global Hawk work scope includes all of the aircraft’s composite components except the wing and radomes.

Aurora is a Platinum Source Supplier to Northrop Grumman based on achieving its objectives for delivery, quality, and affordability.

#### **About Aurora Flight Sciences**

Aurora Flight Sciences designs and builds robotic aircraft and other advanced aerospace vehicles for scientific and military applications. Aurora is headquartered in Manassas, VA and operates production plants in Bridgeport, WV and Columbus, MS and a Research and Development Center in Cambridge, MA. To view recent press releases and more about Aurora please visit our web site at [www.aurora.aero](http://www.aurora.aero).

#### **About Northrop Grumman Corporation**

Northrop Grumman is a leading global security company providing innovative systems, products and solutions in aerospace, electronics, information systems, and technical services to government and commercial customers worldwide. Please visit [www.northropgrumman.com](http://www.northropgrumman.com) for more information.

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