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### **Centaur Receives C4ISR Award for Innovation**

MANASSAS, VA, May 8, 2013 — Aurora Flight Sciences' Centaur Optionally Piloted Aircraft was awarded the "Big 25 Award" from C4ISR Journal on April 26 during the annual C4ISR Journal Conference. Centaur was selected under the "Innovations" category due to its unique design that permits both manned and unmanned flight with the same aircraft.

Centaur is a new type of aircraft that can be flown in both manned and unmanned configurations. A third flight configuration, the hybrid mode, allows for control from the ground with a safety pilot onboard the aircraft. The capability to fly both manned and unmanned missions creates a system with optimal flexibility for the operator.

"The C4ISR Journal's selection of Centaur for its innovation award recognizes Aurora's leadership in the field of Optionally Piloted Aircraft," said Tom Clancy, Chief Technology Officer and Vice President of Unmanned Aircraft Systems. "Aurora is committed to the development of innovative aerospace vehicles as we have demonstrated through over two decades of experience."

According to the C4ISR Journal, "Centaur will give customers, starting with the Swiss Department of Defence (armasuisse), the ability to convert a reconnaissance plane from piloted to unpowered mode in four hours. For U.S. customers, this could solve a drawback of unmanned aircraft, which is that the Federal Aviation Administration tightly controls where and when they can be flown. The shift to unmanned mode is made by installing a package of wiring and computers in the right side of the cockpit. Centaur can fly for 12 hours in its manned mode and 24 hours unmanned. It can carry 200 pounds of payload, with options including an EO/IR video camera, synthetic aperture radar, signals intelligence antenna, communications relay, marine search radar, lidar or hyperspectral imager."

### **About Aurora Flight Sciences**

Aurora Flight Sciences designs and builds aerospace vehicles for commercial and military applications. Aurora is headquartered in Manassas, VA and operates production facilities in Bridgeport, WV and Columbus, MS as well as a Research and Development Center in Cambridge, MA. To learn more about Aurora please visit our website at [www.aurora.aero](http://www.aurora.aero).

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