



Aurora Partners with NOAA on National Gravity Measurement Program

NOAA latest to utilize Aurora's OPA technology for precise data collection operations

Manassas, VA, March 31, 2017 – Aurora's Centaur optionally-piloted aircraft (OPA) is a key tool in the new airborne gravity survey campaign for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Centaur is supporting NOAA's efforts to collect gravity measurements across the United States for the Redefinition for the American Vertical Datum (GRAV-D) program. Under the current survey, Aurora is collecting gravity data in a region of North Carolina to fulfill NOAA's GRAV-D program needs and to fill gaps in the existing data sets used to define the U.S. vertical datum. Through the GRAV-D program, Centaur's precise data is helping increase the accuracy of elevation measurements to determine where water will flow, which is instrumental for scientists, urban planners, agriculture and construction industries, and flood control managers. More information on the GRAV-D program is available at oceanservice.noaa.gov/facts/grav-d.html.

"There are many benefits of utilizing unmanned aircraft for typically-manned operations such as the GRAV-D program surveys," said Aurora's Program Manager Carrie Haase. "Aurora's expertise in creating autonomous aerial systems allows for very precise flight characteristics. As a result, our Centaur OPA can provide efficient, affordable and detailed sensor data to end users who require such precision as with NOAA and the California High Speed Rail authorities."

In November 2016, Centaur surveyed the proposed high-speed train route in Northern and Southern California. Equipped with the TAGS-7 gravimeter sensor from Micro-g LaCoste, Centaur gathered very specific data to help authorities develop a comprehensive model of the earth's structure along the proposed rail route, particularly around numerous fault lines, for better planning and engineering of the rail system. The partnership of Aurora, Quantum Spatial, Seibert & Associates, and Micro-g LaCoste worked in support of the University of California, San Diego's work on the California High Speed Rail project.

The GRAV-D Program will continue to use the Centaur OPA and the Micro-G system to fulfill NOAA's gravimetry requirements this spring. For more information on Aurora's Centaur optionally-piloted aircraft and its mission capabilities, visit www.aurora.aero/centaur.

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About Aurora Flight Sciences:

Aurora Flight Sciences is an innovative technology company which strives to create smarter aircraft through the development of versatile and intuitive autonomous systems. Operating at the intersection of technology and robotic aviation, Aurora leverages the power of autonomy to make manned and unmanned flight safer and more efficient. Headquartered in Manassas, Virginia, Aurora operates production plants in Bridgeport, West Virginia and Columbus, Mississippi, has Research and Development Centers in Cambridge, Massachusetts, Dayton, Ohio and Mountain View, California, and a European office, Aurora Swiss Aerospace, located in Luzern, Switzerland. To view recent press releases and more about Aurora please visit our website at www.aurora.aero.

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