



For Immediate Release

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AURORA'S GOLDENEYE SURPASSES DARPA ACOUSTIC REQUIREMENTS
Tests Validate Company's Quiet Ducted Fan Technology

MANASSAS, Va. Dec. 13 –Aurora Flight Sciences announced today that during recent acoustic testing its GoldenEye-50 unmanned aerial system (UAS) demonstrated acoustic signatures consistently below limits set by the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) for its OAV-II program. Team GoldenEye, an industry team led by Aurora Flight Sciences with Northrop Grumman, Signal Systems Corporation and General Dynamics Robotics Systems, conducted the tests. GoldenEye's low acoustic signature is a key enabler of the aircraft's clandestine surveillance mission because it reduces the standoff distance required for the aircraft to perform surveillance without being observed.

“Over the past two years, our work on GoldenEye's muffler system has created a new standard in acoustic signature suppression for ducted fans without sacrificing engine power or payload capacity,” said Matt Hutchison, Aurora's Vice President of Tactical Systems.”

The GoldenEye-50 is Aurora's third generation of small, ducted fan vertical takeoff and landing (VTOL) UAS. The GoldenEye system has its origins in technology Aurora developed with previous DARPA funding. Over the past five years, Aurora's design refinements have reduced the aircraft's size while increasing its maneuverability, speed and reliability. Today, GoldenEye-50 is small enough to fit in the back of an unmodified HMMWV (Humvee), and it has greater range and higher cruise speed than similarly sized VTOL UAS because it uses high-speed, wingborne flight.

The GoldenEye-50 made its first flight in July 2004 and, after extensive hover tests, made its first autonomous transition to and from horizontal flight in April 2005. Since April, the rapidly maturing system has completed more than three dozen transition flights and demonstrated its operational capabilities to Army Ranger, Cavalry and Artillery and the forces of a NATO country.

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Aurora Flight Sciences is a leader in unmanned aerial systems technology for research, defense and homeland security organizations. For more than 15 years, Aurora Flight Sciences has expanded the limits of unmanned flight through the design and manufacture of innovative aircraft. Learn more about Aurora Flight Sciences by visiting the company's website at www.aurora.aero.

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