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Aurora to Develop Enabling Technologies for Unmanned Vehicle Collaboration

CAMBRIDGE, MA, April 6, 2007 – Aurora Flight Sciences announced today that the company has been selected for award of a contract through the Navy Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Program to develop technologies to enable autonomous, cooperative tasking of multiple unmanned vehicles, including unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), unmanned surface vehicles (USVs) and unmanned underwater vehicles (UUVs).

The U.S. Military's use of unmanned vehicles is expected to grow considerably as the capabilities of both the vehicles themselves and the payloads they carry continue to expand. The U.S. Navy is seeking to push the limits of autonomous vehicles by enabling several USVs to carry out a single mission, with each USV participating in the distributed planning process and using information gathered from its own sensors and an awareness of the other USVs in the team. Aurora's approach will put special emphasis on the improved capabilities offered by having UAVs and UUVs collaborate with the USVs to create a cohesive team all striving to accomplish the same goal.

"Teams of vehicles maneuvering in different operating regimes will complement each other's capabilities, performing much better as a team than the sum of their individual parts," said Dr. Thomas Vaneck, Aurora's Vice President of Research and Development. "By incorporating several different types of unmanned vehicles into a single, cooperative team, a whole range of new abilities are opened up and more complex missions can be achieved, providing superior military intelligence and allowing us to better protect our troops."

Aurora is partnering with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Department of Aeronautics and Astronautics, leveraging an ongoing relationship in which the team is developing techniques for autonomous tasking of UAVs for coordinated search and tracking applications. In this new program, Aurora and MIT will expand their approach to address the unique challenges presented by multiple, disparate vehicles all working in unison to accomplish missions such as littoral search, inspection and force protection. In this program, the core Aurora/MIT team will be expanded to include the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI), which has extensive experience in autonomous watercraft. WHOI will help the team transition its existing approach for UAVs to implementation in USVs and UUVs.

About Aurora Flight Sciences

Aurora Flight Sciences is a leader in unmanned aerial systems technology for defense and homeland security applications. For nearly two decades, Aurora Flight Sciences has pushed the

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limits of unmanned flight through the design and manufacture of innovative aircraft, while also manufacturing composite and metal aerostructures for both manned and unmanned aircraft.

Learn more about Aurora Flight Sciences by visiting the company's website at www.aurora.aero

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