

MQ-9B SkyGuardian:

THE RIGHT CHOICE FOR RPAS IN CANADA

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GA-ASI CONTINUES COLLABORATION WITH TEAM SKYGUARDIAN CANADA

General Atomics Aeronautical Systems, Inc. (GA-ASI), the leading designer and manufacturer of proven, reliable Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS), radars, and electro-optic and related mission systems, continues the on time development of its latest RPAS, the MQ-9B SkyGuardian. GA-ASI is designing MQ-9B as the next generation of multi-mission Predator® B fleet and named its baseline MQ-9B aircraft SkyGuardian.

As Canada looks to fulfil its RPAS project requirements, the multi-mission SkyGuardian stands as the perfect solution. GA-ASI is collaborating with its Team SkyGuardian Canada teammates – CAE Canada, MDA, and L3 WESCAM – to deliver the perfect RPAS to Canada. The team combines the best of Canadian industry with the world's most advanced Medium-altitude Long-Endurance (MALE) RPAS to fulfil Canada's RPAS project requirements.

The Royal Air Force (RAF) is acquiring SkyGuardian as part of its Protector RG Mk1 program and is scheduled for first delivery in the early 2020s. Belgium also selected SkyGuardian for its defense needs. The RPA is being considered as an option for the Australian Defence Force, who chose GA-ASI to supply the RPA system for Project Air 7003.

"MQ-9B is the world's only RPAS being developed to be certified to fly in non-segregated, controlled airspace," said Linden Blue, CEO, GA-ASI. "The development is the result of a five-year, company funded

program to deliver an unmanned aircraft to meet the stringent airworthiness type-certification requirements of NATO and various civil authorities."

As part of the certification effort, MQ-9B is being provisioned with a GA-ASI-developed Detect and Avoid (DAA) system. The DAA system consists of a Dual Regard Radar (air-to-air radar), coupled with a Traffic alert and Collision Avoidance System (TCAS) and Automatic Dependent Surveillance-Broadcast (ADS-B).

The first-ever trans-Atlantic flight of a MALE RPAS was accomplished in July 2018 as part of the Royal Air Force's (RAF) centenary celebration (RAF100). SkyGuardian flew from Grand Forks, North Dakota to RAF Fairford in Gloucestershire, UK, covering 3,760 nautical miles in 24 hours. Other recent development achievements include:

- Demonstration of SATCOM Launch and Recovery for MQ-9B Using Expeditionary Command and Control (XC2) – December 2018
- First Flight of the Second MQ-9B SkyGuardian – September 2018
- Integration of MQ-9B with GPS and GALILEO Satellite Systems – June 2018
- Successful lightning tests on MQ-9B – May 2018
- Demonstration of Auto Takeoff and Landing Using SATCOM for MQ-9B – December 2017

The MQ-9B set an endurance record for GA-ASI aircraft when it flew for more than

48 consecutive hours in April 2017. This is an unprecedented level of endurance that enables the MQ-9B to provide persistent Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (ISR) around the clock with an operating cost well below most manned platforms. MQ-9B has a range of over 6,000 nautical miles and is equipped with nine hard-points for sensor or weapons carriage with over 4,000 lbs. of available payload.

SkyGuardian is capable of all-weather day/night operations. The cold weather engine start capability allows ground operations down to -41°C. These RPAS also have an Electro-expulsive De-icing system (EEDS) for wing leading edges, anti-ice heated engine inlet, heated pitot tube and static ports, and lightning protection.

Interoperable with the U.S., FVEY and NATO, SkyGuardian's multi-mission capability makes it a valued asset in a variety of scenarios – from environmental protection, to Humanitarian Assistance/Disaster Relief (HA/DR), Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA), Search and Rescue (SAR) and overland and overwater ISR.

To date, GA-ASI has delivered over 850 aircraft and more than 300 GCS. Every second of every day, more than 69 GA-ASI-delivered RPAS are airborne worldwide. ●