

UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEM



Acquisition
Directorate



The Coast Guard deployed the ScanEagle small unmanned aircraft system (sUAS) on Coast Guard Cutter Stratton during the acquisition's Analyze/Select phase to gather data to assess best use of the sUAS capability.



HIGHLIGHTS

- Pursuing small UAS (sUAS) capability for the national security cutters (NSCs) as a nonmajor acquisition to provide persistent, tactical airborne intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance capability to increase the NSCs' effectiveness
- Focusing on capabilities that are available in the current market
- Deploying ScanEagle sUAS in the Analyze/Select phase of the acquisition to generate data, provide operational performance information and assist with the development of logistics plans, all of which will inform selection of sUAS capability across the entire NSC fleet

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

An unmanned aircraft system (UAS) consists of an unmanned aircraft, its mission payloads, launch and recovery equipment, ground support equipment, and data and control links. The Coast Guard is preparing to employ UAS to augment its aircraft fleets and to expand the surveillance range of surface assets like the national security cutter (NSC).

The Coast Guard is interested in UAS that can remain on station for extended periods, expand maritime domain awareness and disseminate actionable intelligence on maritime hazards and threats. The service has focused its UAS acquisition efforts on evaluating technologically mature systems, seeking commonality with Homeland Security and Defense department programs, and applying other agencies' UAS experience.

The Coast Guard is acquiring small UAS (sUAS) as a cost-effective approach to meeting the NSCs' operational need for a persistent airborne surveillance capability and has established a nonmajor acquisition program to acquire sUAS capability for the NSC fleet. To minimize risk, the Coast Guard has obtained sUAS

capability on one NSC during the Analyze/Select phase of the acquisition via a pre-existing multiple award contract executed by the Naval Air Systems Command. The initial order awarded to Insitu Inc. on June 24, 2016, includes operation, integration, maintenance and sparring of a contractor-owned ScanEagle sUAS on one NSC – Coast Guard Cutter Stratton – for one year. The award includes options for deployment of and data from the sUAS for up to three additional years beyond the base year.

The Coast Guard has full ownership of the surveillance data obtained and deployed the system on Stratton, an NSC stationed in Alameda, California, in early 2017. The service will use the deployment data to refine the concept of operations and requirements for installing and integrating future systems across the NSC class. These data points will inform a request for proposal for sUAS for NSC capability, planned for release by the end of fiscal year 2017. The contract award for the retrofit of Stratton and one additional NSC is targeted for fiscal year 2018.

For updates on UAS, visit the program's website at <https://www.uscg.mil/acquisition/uas>

U.S. COAST GUARD
March 2017
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Mission execution begins *here*.