Boeing Receives Study Contract for Submarine-Tracking Unmanned Aerial System

ST. LOUIS, Nov. 11, 2009 -- The Boeing Company [NYSE: BA] on Sept. 28 received a $275,000 contract from the U.S. Naval Air Warfare Center Aircraft Division (NAWCAD) for a study of the magnetic noise associated with the heavy-fuel propulsion system on Boeing's MagEagle Compressed Carriage (MECC) Unmanned Aerial System (UAS). The MECC, designed and built to be magnetically quiet, is a special-mission variant of the company's ScanEagle Compressed Carriage UAS.

"MECC's mission is to help locate, track and attack submarines," said Ron Perkins, director of Advanced Unmanned Airborne Systems for Boeing Phantom Works. "This contract is a crucial first step to identify risks associated with a UAS equipped with a magnetic anomaly detector system."

Boeing envisions MECC as an extension of the manned P-8A aircraft's combat systems capability, providing P-8A crews with additional validation and supporting the P-8A in simultaneously conducting both low and high altitude anti-surface warfare, anti-submarine warfare and command-and-control intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance missions.

Boeing will begin testing the MECC sensor system, vehicle integration and magnetic noise reduction in 2010.

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