

## Thales wins UAV System Contract in Canada

Thales today announced a \$649,000 contract to deliver an Uninhabited Aerial Vehicle (UAV) System to the Canadian Forces Experimentation Centre (CFEC) under the CFEC-led Collaborative Mini UAV System project. Partnered with Thales is Advanced Ceramics Research, Inc. (ACR), of Tucson, Arizona, manufacturer of the Silver Fox UAV – the air vehicle that forms the basis of the Mini UAV System. The Mini UAV System will be shared jointly by CFEC, Defence Research and Development Canada, and the Canadian Navy, Army, and Air Force for concept development, experimentation, and evaluation of UAV training, tactics, procedures, and concepts of operation.

The UAV System is scheduled to be delivered by 15 July 2004 and support services will be provided by Thales until mid-July 2006. Several options are included in the two year contract window that will enable the Canadian Forces to purchase replacement Mini UAV System components, support services and additional spares to meet the project objectives.

In announcing the contract, Dave Spagnolo, Senior Vice-President of Thales Canada, said “This contract is pivotal to work we are already doing for the Canadian Forces in the area of C4ISR and it will help position us for future work in the Intelligence, Surveillance, Target Acquisition, and Reconnaissance (ISTAR) programs, both in Canada and elsewhere. We are already actively engaged with the Canadian Army as the supplier of the Land Forces Command System’s Athene Tactical Software, and we are a main contributor to Defence Research and Development Canada’s Common Operating Picture and ISTAR Technology Demonstration Projects.”

“For the Mini UAV System project, our partner, ACR, will supply us with the Silver Fox UAV, various sensor payloads, data links, and UAV control systems, and launch and recovery equipment. We will work with ACR to transfer as much of the technology to Canada as is possible and we will be providing support from our own facilities here in Ottawa.”

“UAVs are already being deployed in operational areas such as Afghanistan by various military forces including Canada’s. They provide near real-time, beyond line of sight surveillance and target acquisition capability. They can also be used to evaluate naval sensor effectiveness, act as a communications relay platform, provide airfield defence, and assess target and battle damage.”

### About Advanced Ceramics Research

Advanced Ceramics Research was founded in 1989 to develop and manufacture state-of-the-art, high temperature, high strength ceramic materials and processes. Since then,

---

## NEWS

DIRECTION DE LA COMMUNICATION | CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS



ACR has added development and manufacture of UAVs for the US military to its product line. ACR's Silver Fox is a small, lightweight UAV that can fly for long periods. It is also capable of providing low-cost aerial surveillance and imaging, and can be outfitted with a variety of sensor payloads.

### **About Thales**

Thales is an international electronics and systems group, serving defence, aerospace, and security markets. The group employs 62,000 people worldwide and generated revenues of 10.6 billion Euros in 2003. In addressing the Canadian defence market, Thales is a leader in Mission Systems and Sensors, Radio Communications, and C4ISR (Command, Control, Communications and Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance) and supplies the Canadian Forces with modern systems and technology for naval, air, and land forces. Thales Canada employs approximately 270 persons in Canada and has annual revenues of approximately \$175 million.

For further information about Thales or about this contract, please contact Ken Bowering, Director Business Development at (+1 613) 723 7000.

-30-

---

## NEWS

**DIRECTION DE LA COMMUNICATION | CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS**

45, rue de Villiers – 92526 Neuilly sur Seine Cedex - France - Tel.: +33 (0) 1 57 77 86 26 - Fax: +33 (0) 1 57 77 87 44 - [www.thalesgroup.com](http://www.thalesgroup.com)