Fire-X VUAS

Medium-Range Vertical Unmanned Aerial System

KEY FEATURES

- Versatile, fully-autonomous VUAS that integrates mature UAS architecture with commercial, FAA-certified airframe
- Combines Fire Scout’s proven ISR capabilities with larger payload, longer endurance, larger cargo capacity
- Flexible, field-reconfigurable design supports ISR, cargo and/or specialized communications missions on land and sea
- Commonality with manned platforms
- Fully integrated operation with multiple control segments (including TCS, Army One System®, and future standards-based systems)
- Modular architecture supports rapid integration, test and deployment of advanced payloads (EO/IR, SAR, Communications relay, SIGINT, ELINT, Multi-Int)
- Backed by award-winning global logistics, training and customer support team

SPECIFICATIONS

Length ........................................................................... 34.7 feet (10.6 m)
Width .................................................................................. 7.8 feet (2.4m)
Blades Folded Hangar ........................................................ 7.8 ft x 34.7 ft (2.4 m x 10.6 m)
Height ............................................................................. 10.9 feet (3.3 m)
Rotor Diameter ................................................................... 36.6 feet (11.2 m)
Gross Takeoff Weight ............................................................ 6,000 lbs
Engine ............................................................................ Rolls-Royce 250-C47B with Full Authority Digital Electronic Control

PERFORMANCE

Max Endurance .................................................................... 15 hours
Max Airspeed .................................................................... 140 knots
Service Ceiling ................................................................. 20,000 feet
Useful Load ....................................................................... 2,950 lbs
Max External Sling Load ..................................................... 2,650 lbs
Max Internal Cargo Load ..................................................... 500 lbs
Northrop Grumman Corporation’s new Fire-X expanded capability vertical unmanned aircraft system (VUAS) combines the best of two proven air systems in a low-cost, fast-fielding package: the versatile reconnaissance, surveillance and target acquisition architecture of the U.S. Navy’s MQ-8B Fire Scout vertical takeoff and landing tactical UAV, and the extended range, payload and cargo hauling capabilities of the commercially mature, FAA-certified Bell 407 helicopter.

Currently in development, Fire-X is a fully autonomous, four-blade, single-engine unmanned helicopter. Like Fire Scout, it will carry an array of reconnaissance, surveillance and target acquisition (RSTA) sensors to support war fighters’ demands for enhanced situational awareness. Its extended cargo and payload capability (2,600 lbs internal or external), and increased endurance (more than 15 hours) will deliver additional mission flexibility to commanders on the ground.

Versatile, Flexible Platform
Fire-X will support both maritime and land-based missions, taking off and landing on aviation-capable warships, and at prepared and unprepared landing zones in proximity to ground troops.

It’s also been designed to operate with nearly any type of future or current military standards-based control segment, communicating as easily with shipboard controllers using the Navy’s Tactical Control Station (TCS) as field commanders using the U.S. Army’s field proven One System™ ground control station.

Northrop Know-How on Board
Fire-X is the latest in a long line of tactical UAVs from Northrop Grumman, a leader in developing, integrating and testing unmanned systems for more than 60 years. It builds on the proven UAV control architecture of Fire Scout, the only VUAS program of record, while drawing on Northrop Grumman’s systems integration and testing expertise acquired through developing targets, the Army’s MQ-5A Hunter fixed wing UAV, and the company’s new line of scalable Bat™ unmanned air systems.

Fire-X also takes full advantage of the company’s proven ability to “unman” or optionally man a manned helicopter – i.e. replace the in-vehicle pilot with the appropriate avionics, software and ground control station to accurately and reliably duplicate the behavior and performance of the air vehicle.

Fire-X VUAS
Medium-Range Vertical Unmanned Aerial System
Mature Tactical RSTA Capabilities in a Proven, High-Capacity Rotorcraft

Bell Helicopter Leadership in Customer Support
As partner to the Fire-X program, Bell Helicopter, a Textron company, brings the experience of designing, producing and supporting more than 35,000 military and commercial helicopters. For more than 50 years, the company has delivered and supported U.S. Navy, Army and Marine Corps helicopters across the complete rotary-wing aviation mission spectrum, including armed reconnaissance, attack, utility, and MedEvac.

The Bell 407 currently serves the commercial human transportation requirements of corporations, hospitals, news organizations, movie studios and law enforcement agencies worldwide, with more than 1,000 systems in service and over 3 million accumulated flight hours. It is backed by Bell Helicopter’s industry-leading record of training, global logistic support and customer service. Bell Helicopter’s customer service has been rated number one for the last 17 years running.

Meeting Future Requirements
Fire-X delivers what military planners want, and what war fighters need: a reliable, low-cost vertical unmanned system that’s versatile enough to support the diverse ISR, cargo, and communications requirements of land and sea forces, while being rugged and persistent enough to stay in the fight until the mission is complete.

Fire-X is available today to support the mission requirements of tomorrow. Contact us to learn how soon Fire-X could land in your future.