



AV Launches Next-Generation VAPOR CLE, Compact Long Endurance Helicopter UAS

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VAPOR CLE adds autonomy, reduces size and weight, increases flight duration and payload flexibility

ARLINGTON, Va.--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Oct. 13, 2025-- AeroVironment, Inc. ("AV") (NASDAQ: AVAV), a global leader in all-domain defense systems, today announced the release of its newest all-electric vertical takeoff and landing (VTOL) platform—the VAPOR Compact Long Endurance (CLE) unmanned aircraft system (UAS).

This press release features multimedia. View the full release here: <https://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20251013047789/en/>



The VAPOR CLE is a Group 2 unmanned aircraft system that supports multi-mission operations—from intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance and Electronic Warfare to precision strike and logistics resupply. [Credit: AV]

Building on the proven performance of previous VAPOR models, the VAPOR CLE helicopter sets a new standard for Group 2 UAS with a more compact, enduring, and mission-ready design with on-board computer integration that transforms the VTOL into a fully autonomous system. VAPOR CLE supports multi-mission operations—from intelligence, surveillance

and reconnaissance (ISR) and electronic warfare (EW) to precision strike and logistics resupply.

"Every detail of the VAPOR CLE reflects an upgrade driven by real-world mission needs," said Jason Hendrix, Vice President of Small Uncrewed Systems for AV. "By doubling endurance, increasing lift, and adding onboard autonomy, we've transformed the system into a combat-ready tool that gives warfighters more capability in a smaller, more adaptable package."

The newly integrated NVIDIA ORIN onboard computer makes the VAPOR CLE fully autonomous and enables Automatic Target Recognition (ATR) through AV_Halo VISION (previously AV's SPOTR-Edge™) computer vision software and WISARD™ Artificial Intelligence/Machine Learning (AI/ML) processing suite. The compact packout case measures 7 cubic feet and weighs 35 pounds—a 50% reduction from earlier models—with tool-less assembly, making it ideal for transport and rapid deployment. It delivers up to two hours of persistent flight—double the endurance of typical Group 2 quad rotor-craft platforms.

Built with a Modular Open System Architecture (MOSA) to support third-party integration, VAPOR CLE integrates with 26 unique payloads— including optical sensors, communications relays, electronic warfare, and integrated lethal payloads, including the Orbital Research Lab 60/81mm mortar CLiK (DEVCOM AC standardization) and Corvid Shryke Guided Munition and IS4S 40mm munition. The VAPOR CLE is compatible with AV_Halo COMMAND tactical handheld controller and is worldwide operational frequency capable with an encrypted data link that can transmit classified information to distances greater than 10km line of sight.

"We built the VAPOR CLE around what warfighters told us they needed most—more time over target, greater lift for mission-critical payloads, and a system rugged enough to survive the toughest environments," said Jason Wright, AV's senior product line manager. "Those upgrades mean troops can carry less gear, set up faster, and count on a single platform to perform multiple roles in the field."

About AV

AV (NASDAQ: AVAV) is a defense technology leader delivering integrated capabilities across air, land, sea, space, and cyber. The Company develops and deploys autonomous systems, loitering munitions, counter-UAS technologies, space-based platforms, directed energy systems, and cyber and electronic warfare capabilities—built to meet the mission needs of today's warfighter and tomorrow's conflicts. At the core of these technologies lies AV_Halo, a modular, mission-ready suite of AI-powered software tools that empowers warfighters and enables full-battlefield dominance: detect, decide, deliver. With a national manufacturing footprint and a deep innovation pipeline, AV delivers proven systems and future-defining capabilities at speed, scale, and operational relevance. For more information, visit www.avinc.com.

Safe Harbor Statement

Certain statements in this press release may constitute "forward-looking statements" as defined in the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. These statements are based on current expectations, forecasts, and assumptions that involve risks and uncertainties, which could cause actual results to differ materially. Factors that may cause such differences include, but are not limited to, our ability to perform under existing contracts and obtain new ones; regulatory changes; competitor activities; market growth; product development challenges; and general economic conditions. For a more detailed discussion of these risks, please refer to AV's filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission. We undertake no obligation to update forward-looking statements as a result of new information or future events.

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