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AeroVironment Awarded \$4.8 Million Contract for ROVs to Support U.S. Coast Guard Modernization Plan

December 11, 2025 12:00 PM EST

Mission Specialist Defender ROVs enhance Coast Guard subsurface response while reducing diver risk and improving safety and readiness.

POTTSTOWN, Pa.--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Dec. 11, 2025-- AeroVironment, Inc. ("AV") (NASDAQ: AVAV), a leading provider of underwater robotic systems, today announced it has been awarded a \$4.8 million United States Coast Guard contract through its wholly owned subsidiary, [VideoRay](#), to deliver Mission Specialist Defender remotely operated vehicles (ROVs) as part of the Service's Force Design 2028 modernization initiative.

This press release features multimedia. View the full release here: <https://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20251211436282/en/>



The Mission Specialist Defender Remotely Operated Vehicle is a powerful, modular underwater system built for precision, payload capacity, and mission adaptability.

The Defender will enhance the Coast Guard's maritime response capabilities by enabling rapid underwater inspections, pier inspections, hull assessments, subsurface infrastructure surveys, disaster response and search and rescue operations in challenging environments—reducing diver risk while increasing mission safety, operational efficiency, and fleet readiness.

"The selection of the Mission Specialist Defender reinforces our ability to deliver proven technology to address the most demanding defense and security missions," said Chris Gibson, Chief Executive Officer at VideoRay. "Customers have come to depend on VideoRay when failure is not an option. As AV's maritime pillar, we're proud to contribute to the organization's all-domain uncrewed systems strategy to ensure the safety and security of our forces."

As part of [Force Design 2028](#), the Coast Guard established the Robotics and Autonomous Systems (RAS) Program Executive Office to rapidly integrate unmanned and robotic technologies across all missions, including investments in robotics and autonomous systems designed to build a more agile, technology-enabled, and globally ready force for the evolving maritime domain.

AV's \$4.8 million award—the largest award of the \$11 million executed in fiscal year 2025 for rapid autonomous fleet upgrades—will strengthen Coast Guard operations with proven, advanced maritime robotics. The selection of the Mission Specialist Defender builds on the company's expanding track record with U.S. and allied defense customers, including the Navy's Maritime Expeditionary Standoff Response (MESR) program.

"These unmanned systems provide increased domain awareness, mitigating risk and enhancing mission success as the Coast Guard continues to operate in hazardous environments," said Anthony Antognoli, the Coast Guard's first RAS program executive officer, in a [separate release](#) issued by the U.S. Coast Guard in September 2025. "The Coast Guard's mission demands agility, awareness and adaptability. Robotics and autonomous systems deliver all three, enabling us to respond faster, operate smarter and extend our reach where it matters most. We are not waiting for the future to arrive. We are delivering it to the fleet today."

Built on a modular, open-architecture design, the Mission Specialist Defender allows operators to easily integrate advanced sensors, manipulators, and specialized payloads. This flexibility ensures adaptability to evolving mission requirements, while field-swappable modules enable on-site maintenance and repairs—minimizing downtime and maintaining operational tempo.

Details regarding the Mission Specialist Defender can be found at: <https://videoray.com/products/mission-specialist-defender>

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 AeroVironment'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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