AV Successfully Demonstrates LOCUST Laser Weapon System Aboard USS George H.W. Bush

April 21, 2026 12:00 PM EDT

Confirms Directed Energy capabilities for multi-domain, platform-agnostic operations

ARLINGTON, Va.--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Apr. 21, 2026-- AeroVironment, Inc. (“AV”) (NASDAQ: AVAV) today announced the successful demonstration of its palletized LOCUST® Laser Weapon System (LWS) aboard the USS George H.W. Bush (CVN-77) in October 2025 in collaboration with the U.S. Navy and the U.S. Army Rapid Capabilities and Critical Technologies Office (RCCTO).

This press release features multimedia. View the full release here: https://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20260420590679/en/

AV’s palletized LOCUST® laser weapon system operated aboard USS George H.W. Bush, successfully detecting, tracking, and neutralizing drone threats during a live-fire demonstration at sea. (Photo: AV)

During the live-fire event, the Palletized High Energy Laser (P-HEL) system tracked, engaged, and neutralized multiple target drones—marking a major milestone toward fielding operational directed energy capabilities across all domains and platforms. This achievement validates that the LOCUST LWS is truly platform-agnostic, seamlessly transitioning from fixed-site and land-based mobile platforms, such as the Joint Light Tactical Vehicle (JLTV) and Infantry Squad Vehicle (ISV), to the dynamic and demanding environment of a maneuvering aircraft carrier.

“LOCUST delivers effective, all-domain protection against emerging drone threats at the speed of light—on any platform, in any domain, for any mission,” said John Garrity, Vice President of Directed Energy Systems at AV. “Rolling LOCUST onto a ship and quickly initiating operations facilitates the expanded use of high-energy lasers across the Fleet without the need for costly, time-consuming ship modifications. This is a game-changer for the Navy and for our national security.”

LOCUST’s successful shipboard operation showcases:

- **True platform flexibility:** Rapid integration across ground and maritime platforms
- **Ship compatibility:** LOCUST features roll-on, roll-off capabilities and can recharge its battery bank or fully run off ship’s power, marrying an unlimited DE magazine with an essentially unlimited power source while reducing logistical footprint and integration complexity
- **Precision aim point and beam control:** Accurately acquiring targets, tracking, and eliminating threats on a dynamic, moving shipboard platform
- **Proven lethality:** Engaging and defeating multiple aerial threats in a realistic operational environment
- **Cross-service commonality:** Open interfaces and a common laser weapon system architecture fulfill the requirements of multiple services

AV’s LOCUST family of high-energy laser systems provides scalable, proven solutions for countering unmanned aerial systems and other evolving threats, enabling the joint force to defend against emerging challenges with unmatched precision, speed, and efficiency—on land and at sea. LOCUST is part of AV’s suite of layered C-UAS solutions, including the radio frequency (RF)-based Titan C-UAS ™ family of products and the Freedom Eagle (FE-1) kinetic missile—all enabled by AV_Halo open architecture software.

About AV

AeroVironment (“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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