



U.S. Air Force Awards AeroVironment \$4.2 Million Order for Switchblade Loitering Munition System

- Order expands existing contract for Switchblade systems and services
- Switchblade successfully demonstrated in December for multiple potential customers

MONROVIA, Calif.--(BUSINESS WIRE)-- [AeroVironment, Inc.](#) (NASDAQ: AVAV) today announced it recently received an order from the United States Air Force for Switchblade loitering munition systems and services. The \$4,167,777 extension to an existing contract includes engineering services, operational Switchblade systems and operator training. AeroVironment will work with ATK (NYSE: ATK), its munition subcontractor, to produce and deliver the systems.



AeroVironment also announced that it performed a successful series of live fire demonstrations for multiple U.S. government customers at a military facility in December 2011. The daytime and nighttime demonstrations further illustrated the unique capabilities of the Switchblade system to neutralize threats from a stand-off distance in a variety of operating environments.

The Switchblade loitering munition system launches from a small tube that can be carried in a backpack and transmits live color and infrared video wirelessly for display on AeroVironment's standard small unmanned aircraft system (UAS) ground control unit. Upon confirming the target using the live video feed, the system operator then sends a command to the air vehicle to arm its payload and lock its trajectory onto the target. Switchblade flies quietly at high speed and delivers the effects of its onboard explosive payload with precision while minimizing collateral damage. The operator can call off a strike even after the Switchblade system is armed, providing a level of control not available in other weapon systems.

Instead of requiring support from weapon systems controlled by other operating units, troops can use the ground launched Switchblade variant to respond to enemy combatants with precision fire from a significant standoff distance, when and where required, representing a valuable new force protection capability.

"This order is another step on the path toward the broader adoption of Switchblade to protect our troops," said Tom Herring, AeroVironment senior vice president and general manager of its Unmanned Aircraft Systems business segment. "ATK is an outstanding partner whose expertise and can-do spirit are helping us refine Switchblade into a practical and affordable new solution for force protection and force multiplication."

AeroVironment's Switchblade Loitering Munition System provides beyond line of sight precision strike capability to dismounted troops (Photo: Business Wire)

"We are pleased to support AeroVironment and the U.S. Air Force as we validate further the breakthrough Switchblade system in real world conditions," said Mark Messick, vice president and general manager of Advanced Systems, ATK Aerospace Systems. "This award will enable significant progress in maturing the system for broader use."

About AeroVironment, Inc.

AeroVironment is a technology solutions provider that designs, develops, produces and supports an advanced portfolio of [Unmanned Aircraft Systems](#) (UAS) and electric transportation solutions. Agencies of the U.S. Department of Defense and allied

military services use the company's electric-powered, [hand-launched unmanned aircraft systems](#) extensively to provide situational awareness to tactical operating units through real-time, airborne reconnaissance, surveillance and communication. Multiple government agencies have helped to fund the development and demonstration of [Global Observer®](#), a hybrid-electric, stratospheric UAS designed to provide affordable, persistent reconnaissance and communication over any location on the globe. AeroVironment's electric transportation solutions include a comprehensive suite of [electric vehicle \(EV\) charging systems, installation and data services](#) for consumers, automakers, utilities and government agencies, [power cycling and test systems](#) for EV developers and [industrial electric vehicle charging systems](#) for commercial fleets. More information about AeroVironment is available at www.avinc.com.

About ATK

ATK is an aerospace, defense, and commercial products company with operations in 22 states, Puerto Rico, and internationally, and revenues of approximately \$4.8 billion. News and information can be found on the Internet at www.atk.com.

AeroVironment Safe Harbor Statement

Certain statements in this press release may constitute "forward-looking statements" as that term is defined in the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. These statements are made on the basis of current expectations, forecasts and assumptions that involve risks and uncertainties, including, but not limited to, economic, competitive, governmental and technological factors outside of our control, that may cause our business, strategy or actual results to differ materially from those expressed or implied. Factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from the forward-looking statements include, but are not limited to, our ability to perform under existing contracts and obtain additional contracts; changes in the regulatory environment; the activities of competitors; failure of the markets in which we operate to grow; failure to expand into new markets; failure to develop new products or integrate new technology with current products; and general economic and business conditions in the United States and elsewhere in the world. For a further list and description of such risks and uncertainties, see the reports we file with the Securities and Exchange Commission. We do not intend, and undertake no obligation, to update any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.

Additional AeroVironment News: <http://avinc.com/resources/news/>

AeroVironment Media Gallery: http://avinc.com/media_gallery/

Follow us: www.twitter.com/aerovironment

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com#!/pages/AeroVironment-Inc/91762492182>

Photos/Multimedia Gallery Available: <http://www.businesswire.com/cgi-bin/mmg.cgi?eid=50169547&lang=en>

AeroVironment, Inc.
Steven Gitlin, +1 626-357-9983
pr@avinc.com

or
For AeroVironment, Inc.
Mark Boyer, +1 310-229-5956
mark@boyersyndicate.com

Source: AeroVironment, Inc.

News Provided by Acquire Media