



February 2, 2016

AeroVironment's Puma AE UAS Supporting Coast Guard Ice Breaker for Operation Deep Freeze Resupply Mission through Treacherous Antarctic Seas

- | Puma AE hand-launched unmanned aircraft system is scouting the ice shelf ahead of the Coast Guard's *Polar Star*, supporting critical ice-breaking mission to resupply McMurdo Station in Antarctica
- | First time an unmanned aircraft system has been used to assist Coast Guard in navigating Ross Sea - avoids putting crew and costly helicopters at risk

SIMI VALLEY, Calif.--(BUSINESS WIRE)-- In a development that takes the life-saving capabilities of small unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) to one of the most remote and unforgiving regions on earth, [AeroVironment, Inc.](#) (NASDAQ: AVAV) today announced it and a team from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) have been contracted to provide the U.S. Coast Guard ice breaker *Polar Star* with a [RQ-20A Puma™ AE](#) unmanned aircraft system and a flight crew for the annual joint "[Operation Deep Freeze](#)," the military component of the larger, civilian-managed U.S. Antarctic Program to re-supply the National Science Foundation's McMurdo Station. The Operation Deep Freeze joint team departed Hobart, Tasmania, Australia, on December 30, 2015 and reached McMurdo Station on January 18, 2016.

This Smart News Release features multimedia. View the full release here:
<http://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20160202005992/en/>



The United States Coast Guard *Polar Star* icebreaker near Antarctica as viewed from the AeroVironment Puma small unmanned aircraft system during operation Deep Freeze 2016 (Photo: Business Wire)

Puma in a portable net on its return to the ship. Puma also can be recovered from the sea as a result of its waterproof design.

The Puma AE weighs 13.5 pounds, operates for more than 210 minutes, typically at a range of up to 15 kilometers, and delivers live, streaming color and infrared video as well as laser illumination from its pan-tilt-zoom Mantis i25 AE gimbaled

"Operation Deep Freeze is one of the U.S. military's most complex peacetime missions due to the harsh Antarctic environment," said Kirk Flittie, AeroVironment vice president and general manager of its Unmanned Aircraft Systems business segment.

"AeroVironment's Puma AE is delivering vital advanced scouting intelligence to help the Coast Guard's *Polar Star* conduct ice-breaking operations in the treacherous waters of the Ross Sea more safely and efficiently without putting pilots and costly helicopters at risk."

Flittie added that updates, video and photography during the mission will be posted on AeroVironment's Facebook page as connectivity permits.

Puma is lightweight, easy to pack and deploy, and can operate off any ship without modifying the vessel. During Operation Deep Freeze, AeroVironment personnel are employing its new Autonomous Recovery System to capture

payload. Launched by hand and capable of landing on the ground or in fresh or salt water, the Puma AE provides portability and flexibility for infantry, commercial, littoral or maritime operations.

AeroVironment's small UAS, including Raven, Wasp, Puma and Shrike VTOL, are uniquely professional grade, proven with more than one million operating hours and used extensively for real-world operations in some of the harshest environments around the globe. They provide high-quality ISR, geospatial and multispectral information and 3-D engineering data for a multitude of missions in many fields, including precision agriculture, energy, transportation and utility.

"AeroVironment's proven small UAS deliver critical information that allows people to make better decisions, even in the harshest conditions - enabling them to move forward with confidence," Flittie said. "Moreover, Puma AE offers significant cost-saving advantages compared to available alternatives."

Operation Deep Freeze is a U.S. military operation in support of the United States Antarctic Program, which is managed by the National Science Foundation.

AeroVironment received the contract from ADS, Inc. on behalf of the Coast Guard and is collaborating with NOAA to provide the requested services.

About AeroVironment Small UAS

RQ-11B Raven®, RQ-12 Wasp®, RQ-20A Puma™ and Shrike VTOL™ comprise AeroVironment's [Family of Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems](#). Operating with a common ground control system (GCS), this Family of Systems provides increased capability to the warfighter that can give ground commanders the option of selecting the appropriate aircraft based on the type of mission to be performed. This increased capability has the potential to provide significant force protection and force multiplication benefits to small tactical units and security personnel. AeroVironment provides logistics services worldwide to ensure a consistently high level of operational readiness and provides mission services for customers requiring only the information its small UAS produce. AeroVironment has delivered thousands of new and replacement small unmanned air vehicles to customers within the United States and to more than 30 international governments.

The Puma AE small UAS comprises one component of AeroVironment's advanced, turnkey data collection, processing and delivery solution employed to provide commercial customers with engineering-quality information, on demand, across multiple industries such as energy, agriculture, transportation and utilities.

About AeroVironment

AeroVironment is a technology solutions provider that designs, develops, produces, supports and operates an advanced portfolio of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) and electric transportation solutions. The company's electric-powered, hand-launched unmanned aircraft systems generate and process data to deliver powerful insight, on demand, to people and enterprises engaged in military, public safety and commercial activities around the world. Global Observer® is a hybrid-electric, stratospheric UAS designed to provide affordable, persistent reconnaissance and communication over any location on the globe. The Switchblade® tactical missile system enables the infantry squad and other customers with increased lethality, reach and force protection through its rapid deployment, direct fire and collateral damage avoidance capabilities. AeroVironment's electric transportation solutions include a comprehensive suite of electric vehicle (EV) charging systems, installation and network 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 ADS, Inc.

ADS, Inc. is a leading solutions provider proudly serving all branches of the U.S. military, federal, state and local government organizations, law enforcement agencies, first responders, partner nations and the defense industry. ADS is focused on solving customer's challenges through the largest product and service selection, the broadest array of procurement and contract options, world-class support and logistics solutions and legendary customer service. To learn more, visit the ADS website at <http://adsinc.com> - Our Purpose. Your Mission.

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; our reliance on sales to the U.S. government; changes in the timing and/or amount of government spending; changes in the supply and/or demand and/or prices for our products and services; 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, including our most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K and Quarterly Reports on 10-Q. 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.

For additional media and information, please follow us at:

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

Twitter: <http://www.twitter.com/aerovironment>

YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/user/AeroVironmentInc>

Google+: <https://plus.google.com/100557642515390130818/posts>

View source version on [businesswire.com](http://www.businesswire.com): <http://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20160202005992/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