



AeroVironment Launches Production of Its New Digital Data Link with \$16.8 Million Order for Raven(R) Systems

MONROVIA, Calif., Feb 09, 2009 (BUSINESS WIRE) -- AeroVironment, Inc. (AV) (NASDAQ: AVAV) has received an order from the U.S. Army valued at \$16,758,776 for the production of 50 new Raven[®] (RQ-11B) unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) equipped with AV's Digital Data Link (DDL). Announced by the U.S. Army on January 22, 2009, this production order was issued under an existing contract and includes initial spares packages and DDL retrofit kits for 206 existing Raven[®] systems. The introduction of AV's DDL follows several years of internally funded research and development in addition to a \$7.6 million contract awarded in October 2008 for the completion of R&D activities.

"This Digital Data Link enhances the capabilities of our Raven[®] system by increasing the number of communication channels by a factor of four, enabling our customers to use more Raven[®] systems where they need them," said John Grabowsky, executive vice president and general manager of AV's UAS segment. "Our DDL also provides enhanced communications security, and establishes the foundation for a new, highly capable and portable communications network over the battlefield. This marks the transition of an important research and development program into production."

AV designed its DDL to conform to the weight, volume and power parameters of its 4.2 pound Raven[®] small UAS. All of AV's small UAS originally employed a four-channel analog data link, limiting the number of aircraft that could be operated in a given geographical area. AV plans to develop a smaller version of its DDL that can be incorporated into its smallest production UAS, Wasp[™].

The Raven[®] unmanned aircraft is a 4.2-pound, backpackable, hand-launched sensor platform that provides day and night, real-time video imagery for "over the hill" and "around the corner" reconnaissance, surveillance and target acquisition in support of tactical units. U.S. armed forces use Raven[®] systems extensively for missions such as base security, route reconnaissance, mission planning and force protection.

In addition to the Raven[®] system, AV's small UAS include Puma AE[™] and Wasp[™], which are also hand-launched and controlled by AV's hand-held ground control station. Each aircraft in AV's family of small UAS is interoperable and tailored to address a variety of operational user needs. AV's UAS logistics operation supports systems deployed worldwide to ensure a consistently high level of operational readiness. AV has delivered thousands of small unmanned aircraft to date. International purchasers of Raven[®] systems include Italy, Denmark, the Netherlands and Spain.

About AeroVironment, Inc. (AV)

Building on a history of technological innovation, AV designs, develops, produces, and supports an advanced portfolio of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) and efficient electric energy systems. Agencies of the U.S. Department of Defense and allied military services use the company's hand-launched UAS to provide situational awareness to tactical operating units through real-time, airborne reconnaissance, surveillance, and target acquisition. Commercial and government entities use AV's clean transportation solutions such as electric vehicle test systems and electric vehicle fast charge systems, as well as its clean energy solutions. More information about AV is available at www.avinc.com.

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 AV News: www.avinc.com/News

AV Media Gallery: www.avinc.com/media_gallery

SOURCE: AeroVironment, Inc.

AeroVironment, Inc.

Steven Gitlin

+1 (626) 357-9983

pr@avinc.com

or

For AeroVironment, Inc.

Mark Boyer

+1 (310) 229-5956

mark@boyersyn.com