

Sky-Watch partners with Sikorsky on advanced technology to increase safety for helicopter pilots

Sky-Watch Labs has signed a contract with Sikorsky Aircraft Corporation to develop an advanced algorithm for real-time wire detection, which will help helicopter pilots operate safer in obstacle-rich environments. The development contract highlights the unique value that Sky-Watch Labs - the advanced technology development department of Danish UAV-manufacturer Sky-Watch A/S, offers the global defense- and aerospace industry.

Under the contract Sky-Watch Labs have undertaken development of a laser-based obstacle avoidance algorithm, aimed at helping helicopter pilots operating safer in obstacle-rich environments with buildings, trees, people, and power cables. Threats, that all pose a real and constant safety risk to pilots and crew in helicopters operating at low altitudes.

“With this contract Sky-Watch Labs have proven that we can provide a unique development environment to the global defense- and aerospace industry. Our exceptionally skilled and creative development team, coupled with our extensive knowledge within sensor fusion technology and the fact that it’s significantly easier and less expensive to test new sensors on unmanned platforms, provides a very attractive value proposition”, says Michael Messerschmidt, Chief Business Development Officer of Sky-Watch.

The cooperation was established on the basis of Industrial Cooperation, following Denmark’s selection of the MH-60R Seahawk helicopters. The Royal Danish Air Force will receive nine helicopters beginning in 2016.

With this contract Sky-Watch is associated with a consortium consisting of some of the world’s largest companies within the international defense- and aerospace industry including Sikorsky Aircraft Cooperation, CAE Inc. and Lockheed Martin that are all members of Team Seahawk. The contract for the development of the Laser Obstacle Avoidance System is an important landmark for the newly established Sky-Watch Labs.

“The agile nature of a smaller companies like Sky-Watch in conjunction with the vast knowledge base of companies like Sikorsky is exactly what is needed to push the boundaries of today’s technology and drive development in the Danish defense- and aerospace industry. The contract between Sky-Watch Labs and Sikorsky Aircraft proves that we together can create solutions for real problems,” says Michael Messerschmidt.





Sky-Watch Labs are also currently undertaking the development of the groundbreaking MUNINN VX1 UAV in cooperation with the Danish Technical University and partly funded by a government grant through the Innovation Fund. The Muninn VX1 is a design which incorporates the ability to take-off and land vertically in small or constrained spaces, combined with the ability to cruise horizontally at high speed to cover larger geographical areas and quickly reach objects or points of interest.

The projects at Sky-Watch Labs brings Sky-Watch a step closer to realizing the huge potential for creating knowledge intensive jobs in Denmark. A potential which was highlighted in a recent report from Oxford Research, who found that the UAV industry have the potential to create as much as 15.000 jobs in Denmark by 2050.

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ABOUT SKY-WATCH

Headquartered in Denmark, Sky-Watch has since 2009 developed, manufactured and implemented high-tech solutions for real-time decision making in complex environments worldwide. Sky-Watch's R&D competencies encompasses unmanned systems, advanced embedded control software, integrated industrial design and intuitive user interfaces. Sky-Watch is owned by the Danish equity fund Dangroup ApS and Borean Innovation. We currently employ 19 highly educated and motivated employees, in an innovative and open environment with focus on our customers needs. For more information about Sky-Watch please visit: www.sky-watch.dk

ABOUT SIKORSKY

Sikorsky Aircraft Corporation is a world leader in the design, manufacture and service of military and commercial helicopters; fixed-wing aircraft; spare parts and maintenance, repair and overhaul services for helicopters and fixed-wing aircraft; and civil helicopter operations. A passion for aviation drove immigrant Igor Sikorsky to establish The Sikorsky Manufacturing Corporation in 1925 on Long Island, New York, and the company later became The Sikorsky Aviation Corporation. In 1929, Igor purchased land in Stratford, Connecticut, and the company became a subsidiary and later a division of United Aircraft Corporation, which evolved into United Technologies Corporation in 1975. For more information about Sikorsky please visit: www.sikorsky.com

