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## NOAA UAS Program Briefs the Unmanned Maritime Systems 2015 Conference

Dr. Gary Wick briefs the civilian Global Hawk UAS applications.

The Unmanned Maritime Systems 2015 Conference addressed today's geopolitical environment which poses a number of unique challenges in the maritime domain. A strategic shift to the Asia-Pacific and Arctic present new operational considerations: improved platform and sensor capabilities may provide unmanned maritime systems the ability to access to areas which have been too costly, dangerous or difficult to reach. Additionally, advances in power, robotics, computing, sensors, and navigation technologies drives increased demand for unmanned systems that can provide increased autonomy, persistent resilience, and functionality with decreased risk and expense, showing their inherent value across multiple applications, including otherwise dull, dirty, dangerous, or denied missions.

The scope of unmanned maritime technologies across multiple maritime applications has grown in the last several years. The systems currently fielded to fulfill today's operational demands need increased integration with existing systems to achieve greater efficiency and affordability. Additionally, while downward economic forces continue to constrain budgets, achieving affordable and cost-effective technical solutions is more important than ever. Building open-architecture while leveraging commercial off-the-shelf (COTS) technology allows for increased economy, interoperability and adaptability can improve existing systems by bringing:

Greater automation Improved performance (SWaP) Interoperability and modularity Survivability in contested environments (resilient communications) Integration with manned systems (Manned-Unmanned System Teaming) Reduced manpower requirements to operate and support unmanned systems.

Dr. Gary Wick briefed the conference on NOAA UAS Program Office's advancement in applying mature unmanned systems and sensors to critical NOAA scientific mission areas including: hazardous weather, maritime and polar monitoring. This year's Global Hawk, ScanEagle and Puma successes were highlighted, and of interest to the mainly DOD crowd. "NOAA has been able to take advantage of decades of DOD experience to support our unmanned systems Research to Application (R2X) strategy which greatly reduced cost and risk to NOAA," Dr. Wick observed.

**Is this is an issue of potential concern?**

**This item has high visibility**

**Geographic Location (Relevant region, city location)** Arlington, VA

**Partnering offices** OAR, NOAA UAS Program, ESRL, PSD

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