

News Release

Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency



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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DARPA AND ARMY SELECT UNMANNED COMBAT ARMED ROTORCRAFT CONTRACTORS

The Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) and U.S. Army have selected four teams for the first phase of the Unmanned Combat Armed Rotorcraft (UCAR) program. Subject to negotiations, each team will receive approximately \$3 million for the initial 12-month concept development and system trades phase. The UCAR contractor teams are:

- Lockheed Martin Systems Integration, Owego, N.Y./Bell Helicopter Textron Inc., Fort Worth, Texas
- McDonnell Douglas Corp., a wholly owned subsidiary of The Boeing Co., St Louis, Mo.
- Northrop Grumman Systems Corp., San Diego, Calif.
- Sikorsky Aircraft Corp., Stratford, Conn./Raytheon Co., El Segundo, Calif.

The goal of the joint DARPA/Army UCAR program is to demonstrate the technical feasibility, military utility, and operational value for a UCAR system to effectively and affordably perform armed reconnaissance and attack missions within the emerging Army Objective Force system-of-systems architecture. During Phase I, each team will conduct mission effectiveness and affordability trades to develop and optimize an objective system design. At the conclusion of this 12-month concept development and system trades phase, DARPA and the Army will decide whether to proceed with a nine-month second phase, during which up to two performers selected from the phase one teams would complete preliminary design of a demonstration system.

The UCAR program will build on work that has been performed under the Unmanned Combat Air Vehicle program in order to take a major step forward in system automation. Rather than employing a dedicated mission control station, the UCAR system will be controlled from existing command and control platforms, such as Comanche, the Army Airborne Command and Control System, or ground-based command and control systems. The UCAR system will be capable of increased autonomy during mission execution, relying on a human controller primarily for tasking and final weapons release authorization. UCAR will be capable of autonomous col-

laboration with unmanned and manned air and ground systems, and will operate at low altitude in close proximity to manned and unmanned systems.

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