**Title:** Airborne Surveillance for Land Operations

**Performing Organization:** Defence Materiel Administration, Australia

**ABSTRACT**

See also ADM001676, UAV 2002 Conference & Exhibition., The original document contains color images.

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- a. REPORT: unclassified
- b. ABSTRACT: unclassified
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**Limitation of Abstraction:**
- UU

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Australian Defence Force

Airborne Surveillance for Land Operations

Dean Overend
Wing Commander
Royal Australian Air Force
Project Manager JP 129

UAV2002
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Aim

To outline the history and current status of the tactical UAV program of the Australian Defence Force
Scope

- Project genesis
- Phase 1
- Phase 2
- Lessons Learned
- Future Australian UAV direction?
- Conclusion
Project Genesis

- Consolidation of disparate ‘surveillance’ projects in 1996
- Capability gap articulated to Higher Defence Committee
- JP129 approved in 1997
  - Phase 1: Risk Management Phase (three years)
  - Phase 2: Follow-on acquisition
Phase 1

• **Explore surveillance capabilities**
  - Broad area
  - Focal area

• **Super King Air 350**
  - ‘Ingara’ multi-mode radar
  - FLIR
  - Extended Range Optical Sensor (EROS)

• **Tactical UAV trial**
  - Bombardier CL-327 Guardian
Phase 2

• **Government direction**
  - Tactical Uninhabited Aerial Vehicle (UAV) to provide surveillance for deployed land forces
    • planned to enter service from around 2007
  - Phase 2 commenced

• **Indicative requirements**
  - near real-time optical and infra-red imagery
  - day/night operations
  - 100km radius of action
  - land/sea/air deployable system
Current Status

- Higher Defence Committee consideration in late 2002
- Submit to Government for approval in early 2003
- Budget approval in Financial Year 03/04
- Request for Tender release in late 2003
Lessons Learned

- **Focus on the ‘information architecture’ is paramount**
  - user community input

- **Take time to assess changes in project direction**

- **Short duration ‘trials’ rarely provide adequate project input**
Future UAV Direction?

- Bring tactical UAV into service
- Continue with Global Hawk cooperative development
  - US military
  - Northrop Grumman
- Investigate UCAV utility for ADF?
- Investigate UAV options for wider surveillance requirements?
Conclusions

- JP129 has an important role to play in the ability of the ADF to perform surveillance
- As a new capability, the importance of getting the requirement correct cannot be overstated
- JP129 is committed to achieving the timeframes required by Government