

PRESS RELEASE

U.S. ARMY AWARDS CONTRACT FOR CAMCOPTER™ AERIAL PLATFORM TO SCHIEBEL GROUP

Schiebel Technology, Inc. of Washington, D.C., has recently been awarded a contract for a CAMCOPTER™ Aerial Platform under the U.S. Army's Broad Agency Announcement for Humanitarian Demining. The contract comes under the auspices of the Department of the Army, Communications Electronics Command (CECOM), Night Vision and Electronic Sensors Directorate (NVESD), Countermine Division, in Ft. Belvoir, VA.

At the time of contract award (in March of 1997), a flight demonstration was conducted at Ft. Belvoir, VA, outside of Washington, D.C. at the invitation from Dr. Louis Marquet, the Director of NVESD. In the course of this demonstration, extended routes were flown over the Potomac River and manual flight maneuvers were conducted by all interested participants in the demonstration.

“The CAMCOPTER™ will provide a flexible, universal, and multi-capability aerial platform for demonstrating mine detection and mine clearance technologies suitable for humanitarian demining operations.” remarked Mr. Hap Hambric, the project leader of the Humanitarian Demining program at NVESD.

The aerial platform to be used is commercially named CAMCOPTER™. It was developed and is currently manufactured by Schiebel Robotics GmbH of Vienna, Austria. Schiebel Robotics is principally involved in the development and manufacture of unmanned aerial vehicles for a multitude of military, police, and civilian applications.

The CAMCOPTER™, a rotary wing unmanned aerial vehicle (helicopter), provides fully autonomous vertical take-off, landing, and hover performance. It can be preprogrammed to fly along selected routes or can be operated manually by a joystick. The system is designed to carry a variety of sensors and other payloads to meet the requirements of potential users.

The system is currently being tested for use as an aerial surveillance and reconnaissance, minefield survey and ordnance detection tool. The CAMCOPTER™ is operable in all weather conditions; it is modular, lightweight, and transportable by light vehicles. The CAMCOPTER™ unique autonomous flight capability provides users with a safe and easy-to-operate aerial platform that is highly adaptable to a wide range of missions that require extended surveillance activity under virtually any threat or operational scenario.

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