PRESS RELEASE

SCHIEBEL CAMCOPTER™ VTOL UAV FINDS BURIED LANDMINES

Schiebel Technology, Inc demonstrated in concert with the U.S. Army's Humanitarian Demining R&D Program the world's first airborne optical minefield survey system in March of 1999. Schiebel Technology's CAMCOPTER™ Unmanned Aerial Vehicle System carrying a gimbaled infrared camera detected and mapped buried landmines from the air. The landmines, buried 2 to 6 inches deep, had been in the ground for over two years.

The autonomous CAMCOPTER™ VTOL UAV flies above the minefield out of harm's way and detects the mines. The operator precisely marks the position of the mines on a digital map using onboard Differential Global Positioning System (DGPS) data.

"The CAMCOPTER Systems ability to reliably detect and map landmines is an exciting breakthrough. It will greatly enhance survey and detection capability" said Sean Burke, Project Manager for the program.

Because a landmine buried beneath the ground's surface absorbs heat at a different rate than the surrounding soil, it has a distinct infrared signature. That enables the infrared camera to pinpoint a mine's exact location from the air. During the demonstration, the CAMCOPTER™ was able to detect landmines even in the mid-afternoon, traditionally the most difficult time of day for using infrared systems.

The removal of the millions of landmines buried around the world is a dangerous, expensive, and time-consuming task. The ability to survey and quickly and precisely determine the locations of buried landmines is a giant leap forward in the humanitarian demining effort. Whereas survey of a minefield could take a traditional clearance team days or weeks, the CAMCOPTER™ can perform the same task in hours.

Since its inception in the early 90s, the Humanitarian Demining Program, formed under U.S. Army's CECOM Night Vision and Electronic Sensors Directorate, has been working with private industry to find solutions to the menace of landmines.

Schiebel Technology, Inc, (STI) of Warrenton, VA, is affiliated with Schiebel of Vienna, Austria, manufacturer of the world's leading landmine detection products. Schiebel is committed to fielding state of the art mine detection equipment and works closely with demining programs the world over, from Bosnia to Cambodia, to meet the needs of the mine clearance professional.

Based upon the success of the recent demonstration, the Night Vision Lab and Schiebel plan additional efforts to refine and expand the utility of the CAMCOPTER in landmine detection.

The CAMCOPTER™ was developed and is manufactured by Schiebel Elektronische Geraete GmbH (SEG) of Vienna, Austria. Schiebel is principally involved in the development and manufacture of unmanned aerial vehicles for a multitude of military, police, and civilian applications, including surveillance, target acquisition, communication relay, and NBC or EW detection.

The CAMCOPTER™, a compact rotary-wing Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (helicopter), provides fully autonomous vertical take-off, landing, and hover capability. It can be preprogrammed to fly along preselected routes or can be directed manually by a joystick. The system is designed to carry a variety of sensors and payloads to meet the requirements of potential users.

The CAMCOPTER™ is operable in all weather conditions; it is modular, lightweight, and transportable by light vehicles. The unique INS- and GPS-based autonomous flight capability of the CAMCOPTER™ provides users with a safe and easy-to-operate aerial platform that is highly adaptable to a wide range of missions requiring extended surveillance activity under virtually any threat or operational scenario.

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Visit us at http://www.schiebel.com/industries/camcopter.html

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