

CAMCOPTER SELECTED FOR SEA 129 PHASE 5

DISCUSSING the selection of the Schiebel S-100 Camcopter UAS for Block One of Sea 129 Phase 5, Schiebel Pacific Managing Director Fabian Knechtel said the number being acquired had yet to be finalised but would range “between 20 and 40”.

While composite parts would be produced at Schiebel’s headquarters in Austria and the gearbox, engine and metal rotor would come from the company’s existing European suppliers, finding Australian suppliers was a priority, as was a facility in which Australian manufacture could be proposed for future S-100 orders in Asia.

Meanwhile Knechtel disclosed that Defence had surprised the company with a Request for Proposal for an additional three S-100s, separate to the recent and larger order, for speedy delivery to the RAN’s 822X UAS test and evaluation Squadron.

The new order will supplement three S-

100s delivered to the RAN in 2018 under Navy Minor Project 1942 to provide an interim shipborne vertical takeoff and landing capability.

These are equipped with an MX-10 electro-optical infrared turret, an auto-

matic identification system, an L3Harris Bandit tri-band transceiver, and a Mode-S ADS-B transponder. Sources at Indo Pacific confirmed that the PT-8 Oceanwatch passive radar system has been added to that payload.

RIGHT: Navy is set to acquire between 20 and 40 additional S-100 Camcopters from Schiebel under Sea 129 Phase 5



DEFENCE