

Feature Story

Australian SME selects Boeing Wave Glider for new anti-sub technology

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A Wave Glider has been selected as the Unmanned Surface Vehicle (USV) of choice to further advanced anti-submarine warfare capability as part of an Australian Government Defence Innovation Hub contract.

The platform, manufactured by Boeing company subsidiary Liquid Robotics, was selected by Australian small-to-medium enterprise, BlueZone Group, to support the innovation project.

“BlueZone Group has been a channel partner of Boeing’s Wave Glider for nearly 10 years in support of the Royal Australian Navy’s maritime surveillance missions,” said Scott Carpendale, vice president and managing director of Boeing Defence Australia.

“Boeing in Australia has a strong base of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) who have supported innovative programs including the Loyal Wingman Advanced Development Program as well as Insitu Pacific’s ScanEagle. What’s really exciting is to see Australian SMEs lead a complex project like this, with BlueZone Group as the prime and Boeing through our Liquid Robotics subsidiary, as their supplier.”

“We’re proud to support this team as they develop sovereign technologies and innovative payloads in support of the Australian Defence Force’s anti-submarine warfare capability.”

BlueZone Group is joined by two Australian SME partners, Sonartech Atlas and Acacia Systems who will provide payloads for installation of the Wave Glider designed to “detect, classify and localise” acoustic signals on board the platform.

“The Defence Innovation Hub recognises Australian SME’s ability to innovate and integrate leading sovereign technology,” said Elizabeth Karpel, chief executive officer of BlueZone Group. “Investing in local capabilities teamed with leading Defence manufacturers will ensure our nation can continue to grow a strong supply chain to solve complex problems for Australia.”

New South Wales-based SME Sonartech Atlas will integrate its Sonix Acoustic Processing Package deployed on the Wave Glider to autonomously detect acoustic contacts. “This project demonstrates a new application of Sonics on autonomous vehicles, in addition to existing applications on surface ships, helicopters and aircraft,” said Peter Campbell, managing director of Sonartech Atlas. “It is a major step forward in the development of an indigenous capability for persistent unmanned surveillance of Australian waters.”

South Australian-based Acacia Systems founder and Chairman, Ted Huber describes the partnership as winning formula. “This investment is a great outcome for developing sovereign Defence assets that support Australia, and also ensures local industry, including SME’s, can continue to grow and support local Australian innovation.”