KTEK secures UAV design and prototype contract with Vestal

Highlights

- **KTEK has secured a contract with Vestal Technology Ltd to complete the structural design, engineering and tooling for the SCOOPER 25 and manufacture two composite prototype airframe structures.**
- **Vestal is an Israel-based developer of electric unmanned aerial systems built around its patented SCOOP wing technology, targeting long-endurance, extreme short take-off and landing and low-signature applications.**
- **The contract represents a full-turnkey design-to-build program, combining engineering, non-recurring engineering, tooling and prototype manufacture.**
- **The first prototype is targeted for completion within five months of project commencement, with the second approximately one month later, subject to timely customer inputs, configuration freeze and supplier availability.**
- **The program adds Vestal as a customer and demonstrates KTEK's established model of supporting aerospace and unmanned-system programs through design, tooling and prototype manufacture.**

KTEK Aerosystems Ltd (ASX: KTK) (KTEK or the Company), a specialist in the design, engineering and manufacture of advanced composite structures and electromechanical sub-assemblies for aerospace and unmanned systems applications, is pleased to announce that it has entered into a binding prototype development and manufacturing agreement with Israel-based Vestal Technology Ltd (Vestal).

Under the agreement, KTEK will advance Vestal's SCOOPER 25 structural design to prototype-manufacturing maturity, manufacture the required prototype tooling, complete static structural analysis and produce two composite prototype airframe structures. The SCOOPER 25 has a maximum take-off mass of up to 25 kilograms and uses Vestal's SCOOP wing architecture.

Material terms and scope

- A fixed contract price of US$172,500, excluding taxes, duties, shipping and customer-site expenses. Payments are linked to order, tooling and prototype-completion milestones.
- Completion of the structural design required for prototype manufacture, design and manufacture of prototype tooling, followed by production of two composite prototype airframe structures.
- A target of five months from project commencement for the first prototype airframe structure, with the second targeted approximately one month later. Timing remains subject to agreed customer inputs, configuration freeze and supplier availability.

KTEK expects revenue from the contract to be recognised progressively as the agreed engineering, tooling and prototype milestones are completed.

Strategic alignment

The Vestal contract is directly within KTEK's established business scope. It combines full-turnkey design-to-build work, engineering and non-recurring engineering, tooling and composite prototype manufacture in a single customer program.

KTEK's customer programs can begin during development and progress through prototyping and qualification to serial production and spares. This staged model, together with customer diversification and broader service capability, formed part of the growth strategy outlined when KTEK listed on ASX.

The current contract is limited to two prototype airframe structures and does not guarantee further orders. Any follow-on manufacture will depend on successful prototype development, Vestal's requirements and a separate commercial agreement.

About Vestal Technology

Vestal Technology Ltd is an Israel-based developer of electric unmanned aerial systems using its patented SCOOP wing technology. Vestal states that the architecture is designed to generate high lift at low speeds, support extreme short take-off and landing operations and deliver extended endurance with a low acoustic and thermal signature.

Vestal is targeting defence, special operations, intelligence and surveillance, mapping and infrastructure-monitoring applications. The KTEK contract relates specifically to structural development and prototype manufacture for the SCOOPER 25.

Vestal is led by an experienced aviation and defence team, including former senior Israeli Air Force personnel and executives with UAV development, flight operations and commercialisation experience.

Dekel Keisar, Founder and Managing Director, KTEK Aerosystems, said:

“This contract is a strong example of KTEK's full-turnkey model. We are bringing together our structural engineering, composite design, tooling and manufacturing capabilities to help take the SCOOPER 25 from preliminary design into physical prototypes.”

“It adds a new customer and provides KTEK with an opportunity to remain involved as the platform progresses. Our immediate focus is the successful delivery of the two agreed prototype airframe structures.”

Next steps

KTEK and Vestal will now progress project mobilisation, confirm the aircraft configuration and design-load basis, and commence the agreed engineering and tooling work. KTEK will update the market if the program leads to material follow-on orders or other material developments.

This announcement has been authorised for release by the Board of KTEK Aerosystems Ltd.

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About KTEK Aerosystems

KTEK Aerosystems (ASX: KTK) is a specialist in the design, engineering and manufacture of advanced composite structures and electromechanical sub-assemblies for aerospace and unmanned systems applications. The Company supplies structural and functional components that are integrated into larger platforms developed by third-party defence and commercial customers.

KTEK delivers:

- build-to-spec composite airframes and structural components, including fuselage structures, wings and control surfaces;
- full-turnkey design-to-build sub-assemblies;
- electromechanical assemblies and rugged defence systems;
- systems integration and kitting; and
- SATCOM components and sub-assemblies for mobile defence and commercial platforms.

KTEK operates a scalable, asset-light “Cordless Factory” model. It retains engineering design, structural analysis, program management and quality assurance in-house while using a certified international manufacturing partner network. This structure is designed to support production scaling without the capital intensity of a traditional Tier-1 aerospace manufacturer.

The Company is led by Founder and Managing Director Dekel Keisar, a mechanical engineer and former Head of UAV Structural Engineering at Israel Aerospace Industries, with experience across more than 20 military UAV platforms.

Website: https://ktek.tech/