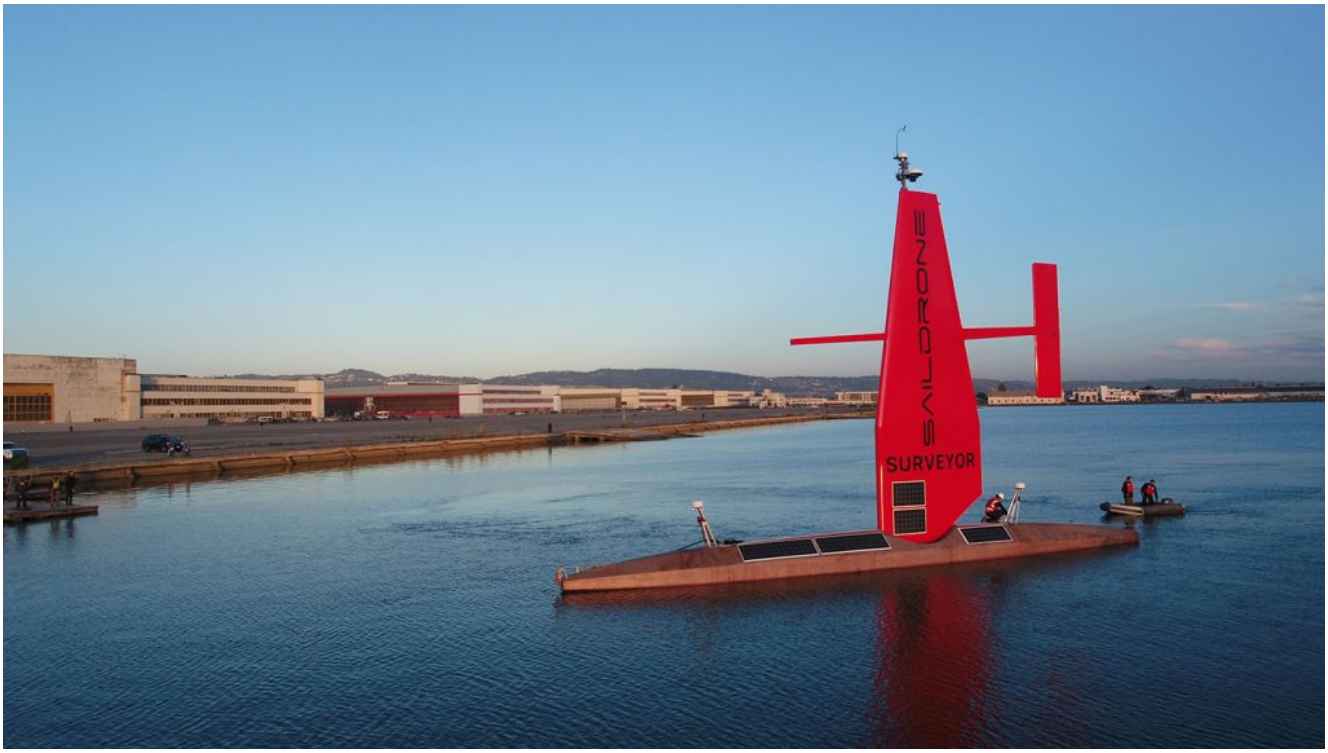
Austal USA and Saildrone Announce Strategic Partnership to Build USVs



A Saildrone Surveyor outside the company's headquarters in Alameda, California. *SAILDRONE*

MOBILE, Ala. – Austal USA and Saildrone Inc. announced Aug. 30 a strategic partnership to build cutting-edge, autonomous uncrewed surface vehicles.

This new partnership combines Saildrone's uncrewed surface vehicle technology with Austal USA's advanced manufacturing capabilities. The partnership provides the U.S. Navy and other government customers a cutting-edge solution for maritime domain awareness, hydrographic survey, and other missions requiring persistent wide area coverage.

The partnership ensures that production of the Saildrone Surveyor will accelerate to meet the rapidly growing demand for the ground-breaking technology. The Surveyor was developed and designed by Saildrone and will be manufactured exclusively

by Austal USA in Mobile, Alabama.

The Saildrone Surveyor, at 65 feet (20 meters) in length, is designed specifically for deep ocean mapping and intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance applications, both above and below the surface. As with all Saildrone vehicles, the Surveyor is autonomous and uncrewed, offering extreme endurance, reliability and cost-effective operations. With its industry-leading expertise in aluminum shipbuilding, Austal USA is uniquely equipped to fabricate the Surveyor's aluminum hulls and ensure rapid delivery to the fleet.

"We are extremely pleased to enter into this agreement with Saildrone. It is a great fit as both of us are leaders in our respective markets and we both strive to provide leading edge solutions to the U.S. Navy," said Austal USA President Rusty Murdaugh. "With our lean manufacturing techniques and serial production capabilities, Austal USA will provide large scale fabrication of these vehicles and with our partner Saildrone rapidly get the capability to the Fleet."

Austal will begin manufacturing the first Saildrone Surveyor vehicles for the U.S. Navy in October 2022.