

Boeing's Australian-Produced Unmanned Aircraft to be Named MQ-28A Ghost Bat



The newly named MQ-28A during the second test flight series at Woomera Range Complex in South Australia. *BOEING AUSTRALIA* – Australia has selected MQ-28A Ghost Bat as the military designator and name for the first Australian-produced military combat aircraft in over 50 years.

Australia's Defence Minister, Peter Dutton MP, announced the designator and name at a dedicated ceremony held at RAAF Base Amberley, Queensland.

"The introduction of the new popular name is a rare and special moment in aviation history for our RAAF [Royal Australian Air Force] partners and industry team of over 35 Australian suppliers," said Glen Ferguson, director of Boeing's Airpower Teaming System Australia and International.

"Selecting the Ghost Bat, an Australian native mammal known

for teaming together in a pack to detect and hunt, reflects the unique characteristics of the aircraft's sensors and intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance abilities, and is a fitting name for this pioneering capability," said Ferguson.

With a rapid development timetable of just three years from ideation to first flight, the development program leverages advancements in digital engineering, advanced manufacturing and unique Australian supply chain technologies.

While the RAAF Loyal Wingman development program name will phase out, Boeing's product name for global customers will remain the Airpower Teaming System.

"Our enduring partnership with Commonwealth of Australia and Australian Defence Force is fundamental to the successful development of MQ-28A's complex technologies and capabilities, and has global export potential for Australia," said Brendan Nelson AO, president, Boeing Australia, New Zealand and South Pacific.

During 2022, the program will continue to accelerate the development and testing of the MQ-28A Ghost Bat, with a focus on sensor and missionization capabilities to deliver on RAAF commitments. These requirements will continue to expand as Boeing moves towards the aim of delivering an operational capability for the ADF.