Navy Taps Draper to Support Future USVs

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. – The U.S. Navy's future unmanned surface vehicles (USVs) family of systems will set a new standard for navigating in hazardous environments, operating with minimal human control and executing missions further from port than previously imagined, a company spokesman for Draper said in a release.

Draper has supported the Navy for more than 60 years. The company was awarded a Navy contract to develop technology to support the family of USVs.

Overall, the Navy has picked 40 companies to participate in a five-year, $982 million multi-award contract (MAC) to support the research, development and delivery of USVs. In 2018, Draper won a similar award for the Navy's unmanned underwater vehicles (UUV).

The indefinite delivery, indefinite quantity MAC identifies task orders in six functional areas. Draper will provide support in payloads, non-payload sensors and autonomy and vehicle control systems.

Key to Draper's support of the Navy's USV program is a simulation framework that enables engineers to design, develop, validate and execute real-time hardware-in-the-loop simulations and rapid assessment, integration and test of complex systems. The Draper simulation framework is available to military and scientific organizations. More than 30 entities have requested access to it and several prime contractors have used it.

"Under this award, Draper is prepared to meet the new standard for assured autonomy for autonomous surface vehicles and support the Navy's requirement for greater flexibility – in

mission design, operations and resource deployment," said Joel Parry, Draper's maritime warfare and intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR) lead.

Draper will provide capabilities for Navy platforms that include Sea Hunter, medium and large USVs and the mine countermeasures USV. The company will deliver sensor and actuator technologies, computing technologies, design methods and tools and modeling and simulation technologies, among others.

"Our capabilities in unmanned surface vehicles will continue Draper's support of the U.S. Navy and its mission to remain unsurpassed in its global flexibility, agility and reach," said Bill Borgia, director of mission systems at Draper.