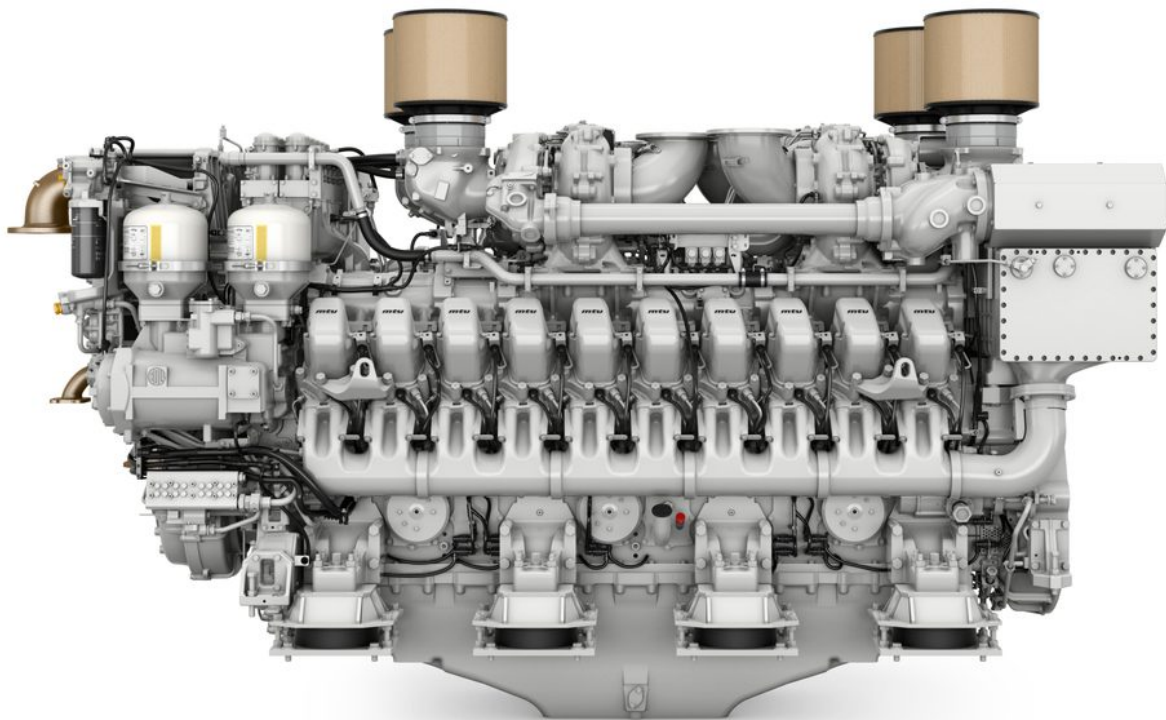


Rolls-Royce Achieves U.S. Navy Certification for its mtu Engines in Autonomous Naval Vessel Operations



Rolls-Royce today announced that its mtu Series 4000 and Series 2000 marine engines have received certification from the U.S. Navy for use in autonomous naval vessel operations, marking a significant milestone in the advancement of unmanned maritime capabilities.

After passing two 720-hour durability tests, mtu Series 4000 engines were certified for use in autonomous applications for up to 4300kW of propulsion power and 3000kWe of power generation. The Series 4000 is available in V-configurations of 8, 12, 16 and 20 cylinders.

The mtu Series 2000 platform was also certified based on the results of rigorous engine component testing along with thousands of hours of reliable field operation. The Series 2000 is available for propulsion applications up to 1939kW in V-configurations of 10, 12 and 16 cylinders.

The certifications align with the requirements outlined in the 2021/2026 National Defense Authorization Act for unmanned systems, which require engines to pass demanding operational and reliability tests without human intervention or preventive/corrective maintenance or repairs to the main propulsion, fuel and oil systems. Successful testing qualifies propulsion systems to power an unmanned ship for 30-day deployments at sea without requiring maintenance.

Scott Hanson, Vice President, Governmental Sales at Rolls-Royce Power Systems in North America said: "The certification of our engines for unmanned operations further demonstrates the reliability and advanced technology of our mtu Series 4000 and 2000 marine propulsion systems. For decades, mtu engines have been trusted to provide reliable, mission-ready power for our crews at sea. As autonomous missions become increasingly important to naval strategy, we are proving that we can deliver the power systems, long-endurance capability and technology required for the new operational demands of unmanned vessels."

Autonomous unmanned surface vessels (USVs) represent a rapidly growing priority for the U.S. government as it seeks to expand fleet capacity and enhance operational flexibility. One of the Navy's first autonomous unmanned surface vessels, the Sea Hunter, was operationally deployed earlier this year along with Seahawk by the U.S. Navy as the first division of unmanned surface vessels. Sea Hunter is powered by twin mtu 12V 2000 engines and has logged tens of thousands of operational hours since its christening in 2016.

USVs enable extended missions, deliver high reliability and

improve safety by removing personnel from hazardous environments. To ensure they meet these objectives, USVs are subject to robust certification frameworks, emphasizing rigorous validation of control systems, cybersecurity and safety-critical functions. These U.S. Navy processes are essential to ensuring the safe and reliable deployment of unmanned technologies across maritime, aerial and subsea domains.

Rolls-Royce is also a leader in propulsion systems for unmanned aircraft, powering current unmanned platforms for the U.S. Air Force (RQ-4 Global Hawk) and U.S. Navy (MQ-4C Triton). Most recently, Rolls-Royce supported successful test flights for the Navy's new MQ-25A Stingray™ – an unmanned refueling aircraft powered by the AE 3007N engine from the Rolls-Royce AE engine family. The aircraft autonomously executed a full mission profile, including taxi, take-off, flight maneuvers, and landing.

As a trusted partner to the U.S. Armed Forces for several decades, Rolls-Royce is providing the advanced technology and proven reliability for the next generation of unmanned military vehicles in the air and at sea.

From Rolls-Royce, Sept. 1, 2026