

Schiebel breaks into US market with Camcopter deal

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Schiebel Industries has secured its first sale to the US Department of Defense: a deal that follows efforts by the Austrian unmanned aerial vehicle specialist to break into the world's largest defence market.

It emerged on 26 October that the Schiebel Camcopter S-100 rotary-winged unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) has been selected as the platform for the US Army's 'Yellow Jacket' counter-improvised explosive device (IED) project.

Schiebel has been subcontracted by US company CenTauri Solutions to provide the vehicle to carry its high-definition electro-optical sensor combined with an unintentional electromagnetic emissions detector to locate buried IEDs.

Under the USD11 million contract the UAV company will support the US Department of Defense's (DoD's) Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Organization (JIJEDDO) - of which 'Yellow Jacket' is a part.

'Yellow Jacket' provides US and coalition patrols and convoys with technology to identify IED threats.

Under the project, the US Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL), in Rome, New York, has contracted CenTauri Solutions to examine the feasibility of using a vertical take-off and landing (VTOL) UAVs to detect IEDs from the air.

The accord comes after Boeing and Schiebel announced on 11 August that they had signed a teaming agreement relating to the latter's Camcopter S-100. The accord aimed to fill a gap in Boeing's range of UAVs and related capabilities.

The agreement is not understood by *Jane's* to be directly related to the 26 October deal with CenTauri Solutions, but instead indicates Schiebel's strategic intentions.