

Boeing Awarded Navy Contract Modification for Additional MQ-25 UAVs



The MQ-25 unmanned carrier-based test aircraft comes in for landing after its first flight in September at MidAmerica Airport in Mascoutah, Illinois. The Boeing-owned test asset, known as T1, flew two hours to validate the aircraft's basic flight functions and operations. U.S. Navy via Boeing

ST. LOUIS – The U.S. Navy has awarded Boeing a contract modification for three additional MQ-25 unmanned aerial refueling aircraft, bringing the total number of aircraft Boeing is manufacturing to seven, the company said in a release.

“We’re honored to have the Navy’s confidence in our system design and performance that is evident from this additional order,” said Dave Bujold, Boeing’s MQ-25 program director.

“This order establishes uninterrupted production of the first MQ-25 aircraft and lines up with the Navy’s MQ-25 test and training plans for fleet introduction. The MQ-25 program is vital in ensuring the Navy can deliver a critical unmanned aerial refueling capability to the carrier air wing.”

This \$84.7 million modification exercises options for three MQ-25 system demonstration test articles and was an option identified in the original \$805 million contract for four aircraft awarded in August 2018.

Early flight testing of Boeing’s MQ-25 test asset, T1, is contributing to program progress. The company recently concluded the first round of flight testing for T1, resulting in nearly 30 hours in the air at various speeds and altitudes.

The aircraft is undergoing a planned modification that includes installation of an aerial refueling store (ARS) under the left wing. Flight testing with the ARS will resume later this year.