Flights Demonstrate GA-ASI's SeaGuardian's Maritime Capabilities

An MQ-9B SeaGuardian. General Atomics Aeronautical Systems

SAN DIEGO – General Atomics Aeronautical Systems Inc. (GA-ASI) concluded a set of maritime test flights over the sea-lanes off the coast of Southern California on Sept. 11, using the MQ-9B SeaGuardian Remotely Piloted Aircraft System (RPAS), the company said in a Sept. 14 release.

This was the first MQ-9B configured for surveillance operations over open-water and served to demonstrate MQ-9B capabilities in the maritime environment.

"The SeaGuardian's debut demonstrated persistent situational awareness in the maritime domain for our customers," said Linden Blue, CEO of GA-ASI. SeaGuardian is an MQ-9B SkyGuardian configured for maritime ISR (intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance) mission.

The Southern California test flight demonstrated how SeaGuardian can be used for a variety of maritime missions, including surface search, subsurface search, littoral surveillance, anti-piracy and search and rescue. MQ-9B is all-weather capable, and compliant with STANAG 4671 (NATO Airworthiness type-certification standard for UAS). This feature, along with its operationally proven collision-avoidance radar, enables flexible operations in civil (including ICAO) airspace.

The aircraft onboard sensors included the GA-ASI Lynx Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR), a Raytheon Intelligence & Space SeaVue Expanded Mission Capability radar, a Raytheon Intelligence & Space Multi-Spectral Targeting System, a

Leonardo Electronic Support Measure/Electronic Intelligence SAGE 750, a Shine Micro Automatic Identification System (AIS), an Ultra sonobuoy receiver and a General Dynamics Mission Systems–Canada sonobuoy processor.