

Northrop Grumman to Rapidly Develop Marine Corps CCA with Kratos' Valkyrie UAS



This agile solution integrates Northrop Grumman's proven mission systems with Kratos' mature Valkyrie. (Photo Credit: U.S. Marine Corps)

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BALTIMORE – Jan. 8, 2026 – Northrop Grumman (NYSE: NOC) was competitively awarded the U.S. Marine Corps' Marine Air-Ground Task Force Uncrewed Expeditionary Tactical Aircraft (MUX TACAIR) Collaborative Combat Aircraft (CCA). This award combines Northrop Grumman's uncrewed capabilities and autonomous leadership with Kratos' Valkyrie uncrewed aerial system to work alongside crewed fighters to provide air dominance in high-threat environments.

Northrop Grumman will develop and rapidly deliver platforms

that include:

- **Advanced Mission Kit:** Northrop Grumman's cost-effective mission kit is inclusive of sensors and software-defined technologies designed specifically for uncrewed aircraft. The mission kit's flexible technology can perform various kinetic and non-kinetic effects, making the platform a combat-ready asset.
- **Open Architecture Autonomy Software:** Northrop Grumman's open architecture autonomy software package – known as Prism – will manage the aircraft's operations autonomously.
- **Valkyrie Uncrewed Aerial System from Kratos Defense and Security Solutions:** Fully equipped for a variety of missions that will include conventional takeoff and landing capabilities, enhanced runway flexibility with a modular airframe and payload bays for customizable effects.

Experts:

Krys Moen, vice president, advanced mission capabilities, Northrop Grumman: "Northrop Grumman remains at the forefront of advanced sensing capabilities, delivering innovative solutions that meet the needs of the warfighter with unmatched speed and reliability. This enhanced capability set ensures optimal performance for both crewed and uncrewed platforms."

Steve Fendley, president Kratos Unmanned Systems Division: "The integration of the Kratos Valkyrie aircraft system configured with the world's best multifunction mission systems from Northrop Grumman results in a high-capability CCA at a price point that enables the uncrewed systems to be deployed

in mass with crewed aircraft.”

Details:

Northrop Grumman has packaged its sensors and other mission capabilities into a smaller envelope, resulting in a more cost-effective solution that is compatible with an uncrewed platform. Combining existing product lines and proven capabilities, Northrop Grumman, Kratos, and commercial partners developed a missionized CCA that includes survivability, connectivity, lethality and supportability elements. With more than 20 successful flight demonstrations in operationally relevant environments, Northrop Grumman and Kratos are offering the U.S. Marine Corps a low risk, expedited path to MUX TACAIR mission capability and persistent joint crewed and uncrewed expeditionary operations.