

SNC Signs Charter with Northrop Grumman and GA-ASI to Deliver Freedom Trainer for UJTS



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SNC signed an Executive Charter with Northrop Grumman and GA-ASI to define an industry teaming in pursuit of the U.S. Navy's UJTS program.

Team Freedom reinforces SNC's commitment to delivering a clean-sheet, purpose-built, high-performance trainer for the U.S. Navy with low-life-cycle cost.

This collaboration supports American manufacturing that strengthens the U.S. Defense Industrial Base and opens new opportunities for Foreign Military Sales in countries including Japan, UK, Canada, Australia and others.

SPARKS, Nev. (Feb. 11, 2026) – SNC, a global leader in aerospace and national security, today announced it signed an Executive Charter with Northrop Grumman (NYSE: NOC) and General Atomics Aeronautical Systems, Inc. (GA-ASI) to define and execute production and manufacturing teaming relationships for its Freedom Trainer™. This strategic collaboration would combine SNC's clean-sheet design with the expertise of Northrop Grumman and GA-ASI, to deliver a zero-compromise training solution for the U.S. Navy's Undergraduate Jet Training System (UJTS) program.

Part of SNC's Freedom Family of Training Systems (FoTS), the Freedom Trainer is a digitally designed clean-sheet aircraft laser focused on the Naval Training mission. At its core, the Freedom Trainer is a high performance and low-life-cycle-cost design with an Open System Architecture. Digitally integrated with a comprehensive Ground-Based Training System and Integrated Logistic System, Freedom offers the Navy a modern training system-of-systems that will meet Naval Aviation training needs for generations.

The Freedom Trainer is the only UJTS entrant specifically designed to meet Naval Aviation's demanding training needs, including Field Carrier Landing Practice (FCLP) through touchdown. This ensures early and repetitive exposure to the Navy's unique no-flare landing technique – a crucial skill for all combat-focused naval aviators – and reduces the need for more costly basic training later in the pipeline utilizing operational, carrier-based aircraft like the F/A-18, F-35 and F/A-XX.

Northrop Grumman's extensive experience in aircraft production and investment in capacity ensures the Freedom Trainer is built with speed and to the most exacting standards. GA-ASI brings a proven track record in advanced manufacturing and cutting-edge technologies, ensuring precision and reliability at every step of the production process. Their robust capabilities complement SNC's innovative design and elite systems integration, creating a training solution that is unmatched in its performance, durability and cost efficiency.

"We are committed to bringing together a world class team to deliver the Freedom Trainer as the complete solution to prepare our naval aviators with the skills and instincts they need from the start," said Fatih Ozmen, CEO of SNC. "We look forward to welcoming Northrop Grumman and GA-ASI to Team Freedom. Together, we will shape the future of Naval Aviation training."

"For decades Northrop Grumman has been a trusted partner in producing next gen aircraft across a spectrum of capability and mission sets, with speed and at scale," said Tom Jones, president, Northrop Grumman Aeronautics Systems. "Leveraging our experience and our investment in capacity in support of this SNC-led team, and delivering this highly capable and efficient training system to the U.S. Navy, is an opportunity we're excited to be exploring."

"GA-ASI is excited to join this industry team focused on training solutions for the U.S. Navy," said GA-ASI CEO Linden Blue. "I expect our advanced manufacturing capabilities to be an important component of Team Freedom."

The Freedom Trainer offers significant cost savings, with engine-related lifecycle costs 40 percent lower than the current T-45 platform. With 30-40% longer sortie durations than competing platforms, the Freedom Trainer maximizes instructor and student training efficiency. Digital Training System Infrastructure ensures seamless integration across all training devices, from simulators to live aircraft, while the digital data package guarantees flexibility to adapt to future mission needs. With a 16,000-hour airframe lifespan, and industry leading lifecycle cost efficiency, the Freedom Trainer is purpose-built to deliver uncompromised Naval Aviator training performance.

The Freedom Trainer replaces end-of-life U.S. Navy and International training aircraft at significantly lower O&M with a high-performance trainer aircraft that enables the U.S. Navy and Partner Nation FMS customers to meet or exceed 4th, 5th and 6th Generation aircrew training needs. Freedom is a natural FMS mechanism to build partnership capacity and further reduce Navy life-cycle costs.

The Freedom Family of Training Systems is supported by a respected team of industry leaders committed to delivering the most advanced aviation and training capabilities. SNC's Team Freedom includes CAE-USA, Cubic, Red 6, Martin Baker and Williams International.

Team Freedom redefines the aerospace industrial base through disruptive innovation and speed combined with an open architecture approach to deliver the training capabilities the Navy wants at a lifecycle cost the Navy needs. Combining high performance and cost-efficiency in a comprehensive training

package, the Freedom FoTS is setting a new benchmark for Naval Aviation training.