Kratos, Airbus Preparing Two Valkyries for First Flight with European Mission System

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Joint Team Continues to Progress Towards Completing an Integrated Uncrewed Collaborative Combat Aircraft (UCCA) System for the German Air Force

SAN DIEGO, March 13, 2026 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- Kratos Defense & Security Solutions, Inc. (NASDAQ: KTOS), a leader in defense, national security and global markets, and its partner Airbus announced today that the joint team continues to take steps towards completing an integrated Uncrewed Collaborative Combat Aircraft (UCCA) offering for the German Air Force and towards a maiden flight with a sovereign European mission system, the Multiplatform Autonomous Reconfigurable and Secure (MARS) system.

The two companies are bringing their respective industry-leading capabilities to integrate, missionize, and ultimately produce and deliver the Airbus UCCA System and are scheduled to fly later this year.

“By combining the Kratos Valkyrie with our MARS mission system, we are offering the German customer exactly what Germany and Europe urgently need in the current geopolitical situation: a proven flying uncrewed combat aircraft with a sovereign European mission system that does not have to be developed from scratch in a time-consuming and costly manner”, said **Marco Gumbrecht, Head of Key Account Germany at Airbus Defence and Space**. “Our objective is to deliver credible combat capability in time of relevance, while assuring key sovereign aspects. And we are confident that we can do this at a very affordable price - which is a key driver for UCCAs.”

Steve Fendley, President of Kratos Unmanned Systems Division, said, “We could not be more excited about the opportunity, the capability we’re providing, and the teaming relationship with Airbus. By taking the flight-proven and in-production Valkyrie and integrating the Airbus MARS mission system, the Airbus-missionized Valkyrie UCCA is a multi-mission, affordable system that can operate independently, in teams of UAS, or in Manned-Unmanned-Teaming operations. Along with the technical and production backing Airbus and Kratos bring, we are realizing an optimal capability system that can be bought and deployed as ‘affordable mass’; the consistent discriminator identified in today’s peer to peer wargames.”

The Kratos Valkyrie is a high-performance, runway-flexible tactical unmanned aerial vehicle capable of long-range flights at high-subsonic speeds. Combining affordability, survivability, long-range, high-subsonic speeds, maneuverability and ability to carry flexible mission kit configurations and mix of lethal weapons from its internal weapons bay and wing stations, the Valkyrie provides unmatched operational flexibility at an affordable price for both Department of War (DoW) and international customers.

With a length of 9.1 m, a wingspan of 8.2 m, range of over 5,000 kilometres, maximum take-off weight (MTOW) of around three tons, the Valkyrie can fly at an altitude of up to 45,000 feet. The maiden flight of the Valkyrie already took place in the USA in 2019; and additional aircraft have been flying regularly since that time. The maiden flight of the Airbus variant is scheduled for 2026.

Fully autonomous or commanded by a Eurofighter, the Valkyrie is designed to be able to take on sensitive mission tasks that would pose too great a danger to the pilot. The UCCA can service kinetic and non-kinetic mission sets in several roles. For the German customer, Airbus and Kratos are initially focusing on a specific role to deliver credible combat air power on time and on target.





In Manching, Germany, Airbus is currently preparing two Kratos Valkyries for their first flight with its European mission system.

A photo accompanying this announcement is available at
https://www.globenewswire.com/NewsRoom/AttachmentNg/fee6db03-df30-4e1c-83e1-38423d24fcd4

About Kratos Defense & Security Solutions
Kratos Defense & Security Solutions, Inc. (NASDAQ: KTOS) is a technology, products, system and software company addressing the defense, national security, and commercial markets. Kratos makes true internally funded research, development, capital and other investments, to rapidly develop, produce and field solutions that address our customers' mission critical needs and requirements. At Kratos, affordability is a technology, and we seek to utilize proven, leading edge approaches and technology, not unproven bleeding edge approaches or technology, with Kratos' approach designed to reduce cost, schedule and risk, enabling us to be first to market with cost effective solutions. We believe that Kratos is known as an innovative disruptive change agent in the industry, a company that is an expert in designing products and systems up front for successful rapid, large quantity, low-cost future manufacturing which is a value add competitive differentiator for our large traditional prime system integrator partners and also to our government and commercial customers. Kratos intends to pursue program and contract opportunities as the prime or lead contractor when we believe that our probability of win (PWin) is high and any investment required by Kratos is within our capital resource comfort level. We intend to partner and team with a large, traditional system integrator when our assessment of PWin is greater or required investment is beyond Kratos' comfort level. Kratos' primary business areas include virtualized ground systems for satellites and space vehicles including software for command & control (C2) and telemetry, tracking and control (TT&C), jet powered unmanned aerial drone systems, advanced vehicles and rocket systems, propulsion systems for drones, missiles, loitering munitions, supersonic systems, space craft and launch systems, C5ISR and microwave electronic products for missile, radar, missile defense, space, satellite, counter UAS, directed energy, communication and other systems, and virtual & augmented reality training systems for the warfighter. For more information, visit www.KratosDefense.com.

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Source: Kratos Defense & Security Solutions, Inc.