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## AeroVironment's New Long-Range Tracking Antenna Significantly Extends Puma AE UAS Capabilities and Enhances Warfighter Safety

- ▮ Critical upgrade extends range of Puma™ AE systems equipped with AeroVironment's secure Digital Data Link (DDL) technology to approximately 60 kilometers
- ▮ New technology delivers three times the range of current Puma systems

LONDON--(BUSINESS WIRE)-- At DSEI: [AeroVironment, Inc.](http://www.aerovironment.com) (NASDAQ: AVAV), a global leader in unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) for both military and commercial applications, today announced the release of a new, long-range tracking antenna (LRTA) for its [Puma™ AE](#) unmanned aircraft system. The critical upgrade extends the range of Puma systems equipped with AeroVironment's secure [Digital Data Link \(DDL™\)](#) technology to approximately 60 kilometers (37.28 miles), significantly boosting Puma AE's intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR) capabilities and enhancing warfighter safety.

This Smart News Release features multimedia. View the full release here:

<http://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20170912005664/en/>



AeroVironment's new long-range tracking antenna for its Puma™ AE small drone lets warfighters gather surveillance data farther from dangerous hostile fire. (Photo: Business Wire)

"The LRTA enables Puma AE operators to gather critical ISR data while positioned much farther from dangerous hostile fire," said Kirk Flittie, AeroVironment vice president and general manager of its Unmanned Aircraft Systems business segment. "Importantly, this technology provides our customers with a UAS solution that can triple the range of existing Puma systems that use our standard omnidirectional antenna."

The antenna also features an automated tracking function (two-axis positioner) that ensures a secure and reliable link with the Puma air vehicle while it operates at extended range. When integrated with AeroVironment's Mantis i45 electro-optical/infrared (EO/IR) gimballed sensor suite, this improved antenna gives Puma capabilities similar to larger and more costly Group 2 or higher UAS.

With M3/M4 DDL radio frequency capability, the new LRTA is compatible with a wide range of flight and ground assets that use those wavebands, including AeroVironment's Pocket Digital Data Link (pDDL AE™) transceivers and [Pocket RVT \(pRVT™\)](#) video transceivers, which give users direct access to real-time video downlink images and geodata from any DDL-equipped platform.

Among other important features of the new LRTA, its rugged frame was designed for operation in the harshest conditions. It comes fully equipped with all the components needed for its operation. Plus, operation with the LRTA requires no modifications to Puma Systems compatible with M3/M4 DDL radios.

The new LRTA's automated tracking function offers close range automatic antenna switching for omnidirectional use. Additionally, the antenna is equipped with a self-contained uninterruptible power supply (UPS) for power conditioning.

Puma AE (All Environment) is a fully waterproof, small UAS designed for land and maritime operations. Capable of landing in water or on land, the Puma AE empowers the operator with unmatched operational flexibility in the small UAS class. Puma's enhanced

precision navigation system with secondary GPS provides optimal positional accuracy and reliability. Moreover, AeroVironment's common ground control system (GCS) allows the operator to control the aircraft manually or program it for GPS-based autonomous navigation.

The LRTA for Puma AE systems is now available for ordering, with delivery scheduled for Spring of 2018.

## About AeroVironment

AeroVironment (NASDAQ: AVAV) provides customers with more actionable intelligence so they can proceed with certainty. Based in California, AeroVironment is a global leader in unmanned aircraft systems, tactical missile systems and electric vehicle charging and test systems, and serves militaries, government agencies, businesses and consumers. For more information visit [www.avinc.com](http://www.avinc.com).

## Safe Harbor Statement

This press release contains "forward-looking statements" as that term is defined in the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Forward-looking statements include, without limitation, any statement that may predict, forecast, indicate or imply future results, performance or achievements, and may contain words such as "believe," "anticipate," "expect," "estimate," "intend," "project," "plan," or words or phrases with similar meaning. Forward-looking statements are based on current expectations, forecasts and assumptions that involve risks and uncertainties, including, but not limited to, economic, competitive, governmental and technological factors outside of our control, that may cause our business, strategy or actual results to differ materially from the forward-looking statements. Factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from the forward-looking statements include, but are not limited to, reliance on sales to the U.S. government; availability of U.S. government funding for defense procurement and R&D programs; changes in the timing and/or amount of government spending; risks related to our international business, including compliance with export control laws; potential need for changes in our long-term strategy in response to future developments; unexpected technical and marketing difficulties inherent in major research and product development efforts; changes in the supply and/or demand and/or prices for our products and services; the activities of competitors and increased competition; failure of the markets in which we operate to grow; failure to remain a market innovator and create new market opportunities; changes in significant operating expenses, including components and raw materials; failure to develop new products; the extensive regulatory requirements governing our contracts with the U.S. government; product liability, infringement and other claims; changes in the regulatory environment; and general economic and business conditions in the United States and elsewhere in the world. For a further list and description of such risks and uncertainties, see the reports we file with the Securities and Exchange Commission. We do not intend, and undertake no obligation, to update any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.

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