

STARA Technologies, Inc. Introduces World's Smallest GPS Guided Parafoil Delivery System

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ABSTRACT (ABSTRACT)

The demonstration took place at STARA's test facility outside Phoenix, Arizona. Five Flight Guidance Units (FGUs) successfully flew 3 pound payloads to a target on the ground, managing to navigate within 15 to 230 feet of a pre-programmed GPS position, far exceeding customer expectations.

STARA's FGU is a miniature payload delivery system that uses an onboard GPS receiver and compass to calculate a flight path. The onboard flight computer executes turns by activating a miniature motor attached to the parafoil control lines. The entire unit is only 3 3/4 inches tall, 1 7/8 inches wide, 2 1/2 inches deep and weighs just over a half pound. The parafoil (an inflatable wing shaped parachute) measured 8 sq. ft. in size and was designed by Pioneer Aerospace of South Windsor, CT.

FULL TEXT

MESA, Ariz., Aug. 13 /PRNewswire/ -- On June 18, STARA Technologies conducted a successful test of its new, compact parafoil delivery system.

The demonstration took place at STARA's test facility outside Phoenix, Arizona. Five Flight Guidance Units (FGUs) successfully flew 3 pound payloads to a target on the ground, managing to navigate within 15 to 230 feet of a pre-programmed GPS position, far exceeding customer expectations.

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Previously, systems of this type have only been designed on a much larger scale, and the next largest system is designed to deliver 500 pounds. STARA designers commented that, at the beginning of the project, there was a good deal of skepticism within the industry as to whether a miniature system could work at all.

The FGU was designed as an essential component of BAE Systems' anti-chemical warfare program. The FGU was designed to be released from the standard chaff/flare dispenser systems used by military aircraft to protect themselves against attack by surface to air missiles. Once released, the FGU flies the BAE Chemical Agent Detector safely to the ground.

A STARA employee commented, "It's nice to know that the work we're doing here may some day save lives." He also indicated that, while the system was designed to deliver a BAE sensor, it can be used in any number of military or commercial applications where miniature, high-tech payloads need to be strategically dropped.

About STARA Technologies, Inc.:

Headquartered in Mesa, Arizona, STARA is an innovative electronics engineering company that specializes in developing GPS based solutions across the defense arena.

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To obtain additional information about the FGU, visit our web site at www.stara.biz .

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