

The Startling Growth



Expanding UAV/USV market

Protector USV from Rafael, Israel

A new market study on military UAVs by *Market Forecast* indicates a growth of the military VTOL UAV market from \$81 million in 2016-17 to \$392.8 million in 2022-23, or an increase of over 400%. UAVs operated in Afghanistan and Iraq have demonstrated their usefulness for Counter-Improvised Explosive Device (C-IED) tasks. Vertical Take-Off and Landing UAVs (VTOL UAVs) are particularly seen as suitable for C-IED with the air vehicle capable of hovering at a distance to find and locate Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs).

VTOL UAVs are additionally seen as useful in urban environments, for maritime ISR tasks from naval vessels and in areas where normal fixed-wing UAV operations might be difficult due to terrain, threats or insufficient support personnel deployed at forward bases to recover the UAV. Major companies offering VTOL UAVs include Northrop Grumman with the MQ-8B/C Fire Scout, Austria's Schiebel with the Camcopter S-100 and UMS Skeldar, a joint venture formed between Sweden's Saab (47 per cent) and Switzerland's UMS Aero Group (53 per cent), with the Skeldar

series. Multiple countries have bought or intend to buy VTOL UAVs including the USMC (USA), ONR (USA), Bulgaria, Germany, Greece, United Kingdom, Portugal, Norway, Korea, the Philippines and the UAE.

Another report *Unmanned Surface Vehicle (USV) Market by Application (Defence, Scientific Research, Commercial, Miscellaneous), Size (Small, Medium, Large, Extra Large), Propulsion System, Modes of Operation, Payload and Geography - Global Forecast to 2022*, states that the unmanned surface vehicle market is estimated at