

Supplier Newsletter



WELCOME

At General Atomics (GA), our mission is built on innovation, precision, and an unwavering commitment to delivering technologies that support national security, scientific advancement, and the customers who depend on us. Achieving that mission requires trusted partners who share our commitment to excellence and understand the importance of delivering with integrity, quality, and reliability.

Our suppliers are a key part of every program we support. Your expertise, dedication, and pursuit of continuous improvement strengthen the foundation of our success and enable us to meet the complex challenges of an ever-evolving world. Together, we are advancing capabilities and delivering solutions where performance, precision, and dependability matter most.

As technology continues to evolve and the demands in our industry grow, our commitment

to strong partnerships remains steadfast. By working together with transparency, accountability, and a shared focus on excellence, we are helping shape the future of aerospace, defense, and advanced technologies.

Thank you for your continued partnership and for the expertise, innovation, and professionalism you bring to our shared mission. Together, we are strengthening the capabilities that protect, connect, and advance the world around us. We look forward to welcoming our supplier community this November as we celebrate the partnerships that continue to make mission success possible.

**REGISTER for
SUPPLIER DAY 2026**
[Click HERE](#)

SPOTLIGHT *By Cindy Avonce*

GA Supplier Day 2026 Is Coming This November

GA is excited to announce the official date for **GA Supplier Day 2026**! Supplier Day 2026, themed **“Collaboration That Delivers – Partnering for Mission Success,”** will be broadcast virtually on **Tuesday, November 10, 2026**. Held every two years, Supplier Day is one of General Atomics’ premier supplier engagement events, bringing together current and prospective suppliers to strengthen partnerships, recognize outstanding performance, and showcase the innovation and technologies that drive our mission.

This year’s theme, “Collaboration That Delivers – Partnering for Mission Success,” reflects the importance of strong supplier partnerships in advancing our shared commitment to excellence and delivering innovative solutions to the most critical customers. GA Supplier Day 2026 will feature messages from executive

leadership, insightful breakout sessions, and exclusive virtual tours that highlight GA’s diverse capabilities and programs; and that invite our suppliers, current and future, to get in on our mission. Attendees will also have the opportunity to learn more about the technologies shaping our future, gain insight into doing business with GA, and hear directly from subject matter experts across the organization.

Our GA Team is actively preparing presentations, filming facility tours, and developing engaging content to make this year’s event our best yet.

To register, [click here!](#)

We look forward to welcoming our supplier community this November as we celebrate the partnerships that continue to make mission success possible.



SPOTLIGHT *By Maritza Lopez-Cabrera*



Welcome to the Next Generation of Supplier Collaboration

At GA, strong supplier partnerships are built on collaboration, innovation, and continuous improvement. As part of our **Procurement Digital Transformation** initiative, GA is excited to introduce our new GA Supplier Portal, powered by Ivalua. The new GA Supplier Portal will offer a modern, intuitive, and secure, platform to make doing business with GA easier, more efficient, and more connected.

The GA Supplier Portal will replace the SAP Ariba platform, GA's current system used for Supplier On-Boarding, and Representations and Certifications.

Beginning in Q1 2027, GA will launch the first phase of its Ivalua implementation with the Supplier Information Management (SIM) module, which will replace the functionality currently managed through SAP Ariba. However, over the next several years, GA will implement additional Ivalua modules to modernize supplier collaboration and streamline key procurement processes, such as sourcing, award management, document collaboration, and delivery collaboration. The new GA Supplier Portal is a key investment in our long-term vision for a more connected and digitally enabled procurement ecosystem.

What's in It for You?

The GA Supplier Portal prioritizes the supplier's experience, offering:

- A simple supplier registration and onboarding experience.
- An intuitive platform for maintaining your company's profile and information.
- Efficient communication and collaboration with GA.
- Improved visibility throughout key procurement activities.
- A secure, scalable platform that will continue to evolve with new capabilities over time.

Our goal is simple: make doing business with GA easier.

Modernizing supplier collaboration is a cornerstone in creating a more efficient, transparent, and scalable procurement ecosystem that benefits both our Suppliers, and our business.

What Happens Next?

As implementation moves closer to the Q1 2027 Phase 1 launch, GA will keep you informed with:

- Registration and onboarding instructions.
- Training resources and user guides.
- Project milestones and implementation updates.
- Key dates and any actions you'll need to take before launch.

Please look for updates on our Supplier Website and communications from GA. And don't forget to attend [GA 2026 Supplier Day](#) to hear more about GA's Supplier Portal and our Procurement Digital Transformation.

Thank you for your continued partnership.



IVALUA: Transform Procurement with Clarity & Control. Streamline sourcing, contracts, and supplier management seamlessly.

Quality Matters *By Rob Stone/Jose Alatorre*

New Supplier Quality Scoring Approach

As supply chains and our business grow more complex, it is critical to increase our supply chain line of sight. To that end, GA has developed advanced data and analytics to better assess our supply chain's health quality. GA is revamping a targeted supply chain quality health metric: the Supplier Quality Performance Index (SQPI). This revamped SQPI will be used to focus our resources to the greatest supply chain quality risks, for which GA may be able to offer support and counsel to our Suppliers.

What Is the SQPI?

The SQPI is a weighted score. GA calculates this metric using objective performance measurement data from various quality metrics generated in our enterprise resource planning system, such as receiving inspection reports, corrective action requests, and

documentation approvals. The metric prioritizes quality issues identified by GA that offer insight and may require deeper causal analysis. The SQPI also accounts for magnitude so that new Suppliers, small business Suppliers, or Suppliers with fewer transactions do not experience uncharacteristically low SQPIs.

How Will the Scores be Used?

Our goal, first and foremost, is to support the delivery of quality products and our valued Suppliers. The primary intent of the SQPI is to focus our Supplier Quality Team's efforts where they are needed most: offering valued Supplier support, training, or awareness regarding our quality requirements. When an SQPI indicates an adverse condition, GA will initiate work with you to validate the findings and develop a plan to return to a healthy SQPI. Please note that an SQPI exhibiting 'high risk' does not result in an immediate withdrawal of GA business.

What Does the Data Show?

Current SQPI metrics demonstrate an upward trend from previous measurements. However, data indicates that documentation-related errors persist and negatively affect Supplier's SQPIs. Timely and accurate data submissions reduce errors, turn-backs, and most importantly delays in performance and payment. To address this finding, GA teams are increasing upfront engagement, especially with new Suppliers or Suppliers that are taking on new or complex work to make sure quality clause requirements are understood and can be met.

Next Steps

GA is working to integrate the new SQPI scoring with other Supplier Management practices, analytics projects, and the implementation of the new GA Supplier Portal, powered by Ivalua. Should you have any questions regarding the SQPI, contact your established GA Buyer to set up a discussion.

SQPI: A Weighted Score That Reflects Performance

GA calculates SQPI using objective performance data from our ERP system to drive quality, accountability, and continuous improvement.

OBJECTIVE PERFORMANCE DATA FROM OUR ERP SYSTEM



GA CALCULATES

Each metric is **WEIGHTED** based on its impact on quality



Weighted metrics are combined to produce a single, **objective SQPI score**

THE RESULT

SQPI: A single, weighted score that reflects overall supplier quality performance



SQPI

Objective. Measurable. Actionable.



DRIVES QUALITY
Helps ensure high standards across our supply chain



PROMOTES ACCOUNTABILITY
Encourages ownership and timely issue resolution



ENCOURAGES IMPROVEMENT
Data-driven insights to strengthen performance

CYBERSECURITY CORNER

By Will Cannon/Kevin Pyle

Cybersecurity continues to be a critical priority for the Department of Defense (DoD), and the **Cybersecurity Maturity Model Certification (CMMC)** program remains the framework used to verify that contractors and subcontractors adequately protect sensitive government information. As a valued supplier, understanding your organization's responsibilities under CMMC is essential to maintaining eligibility for DoD contracts.

CMMC Level 1 applies to organizations that handle **Federal Contract Information (FCI)**. FCI is information provided by or generated for the government that is not intended for public release. Level 1 requires implementation of 15 foundational cybersecurity practices aligned with Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) 52.204-21. These practices include basic access controls, system protection, and safeguarding information from unauthorized access. Organizations subject to Level 1 complete an annual self-assessment to demonstrate compliance.

CMMC Level 2 applies to suppliers that receive, process, store, or transmit **Controlled Unclassified Information (CUI)**. CUI includes sensitive government information such as technical drawings, engineering data, controlled technical information, manufacturing specifications, or other information specifically designated as requiring protection. Level 2 requires implementation of all 110 security requirements in NIST SP 800-171 Rev. 2. In addition to implementing technical and administrative safeguards, organizations should maintain documentation such as a System Security Plan (SSP), Plans of Action and Milestones (POA&Ms), policies, procedures, and evidence demonstrating that required controls are operating effectively.

Depending on the contract, Level 2 suppliers may be required to complete either an annual self-assessment or an independent assessment conducted by a Certified Third-Party Assessment Organization (C3PAO).



In July 2026, the DoD announced a pause in the planned Phase 2 rollout of mandatory third-party CMMC assessments while it reviews implementation of the program. This decision was intended to evaluate the impact of certification requirements on the Defense Industrial Base and does not eliminate existing cybersecurity obligations. Contractors should continue meeting applicable CMMC and NIST SP 800-171 requirements and be prepared to meet Level 2 C3PAO as needed.

Suppliers are encouraged to review their contracts to determine whether they handle FCI or CUI and ensure their cybersecurity program aligns with the applicable CMMC level. Proactively strengthening cybersecurity controls, maintaining accurate documentation, and preparing assessment evidence today will help minimize future compliance challenges and contribute to a more secure defense supply chain.

If you are a current GA supplier and handle FCI or CUI, please remain on the lookout for an Ariba questionnaire. This will need to be approved when the DFARS 252.204-7021 clause applies and FCI or CUI is involved in the Order.



In The News

Powerful Partnerships

By Zach Baur

GA recognizes that a strong Defense Industrial Base (DIB) depends on meaningful partnerships with small businesses. Through its Small Business Program Office (SBPO), GA is committed to providing maximum practicable opportunities for small businesses to support the defense and energy missions critical to our nation's security.

GA proudly sponsors the San Diego, Orange, and Imperial Counties APEX Accelerator, helping connect capable small businesses with federal contracting opportunities. Organizations like APEX Accelerators play a vital role in strengthening the DIB by preparing innovative businesses to compete in Federal procurements.

GA's commitment also extends beyond our local community. In July 2026, the SBPO attended the HUBZone National Conference for the second consecutive year. As the premier event for HUBZone-certified businesses to connect with major Primes,

the conference provided opportunities to expand GA's supplier network with companies creating jobs in historically underutilized business zones.

As GA expands its capabilities across space mission areas, strategic supplier partnerships remain a priority. The SBPO participated in the Second Annual Space Systems Command Small Business Subcontracting Forum, connecting with small businesses developing technologies that support evolving space missions. These engagements help position GA to meet evolving customer needs while creating opportunities for innovative small businesses to contribute to critical national security missions.

Through partnerships with organizations that champion small businesses and engagement across industry, GA continues to strengthen the DIB by expanding opportunities for innovative suppliers to contribute to the critical missions of today and tomorrow.



GA's Small Business Liaison Officer (center) participates as a Prime contractor panelist at the Second Annual Space Systems Command Small Business Subcontracting Forum to strengthen partnerships supporting future space missions.



Defense and Security Solutions, Zachary Baur, Small Business Program Manager, General Atomics, Dan Feller, VP General Dynamics Mission Systems, and Suzanne Trinh, Supply Chain Manager/SBLO, General Dynamics Mission Systems.

On the Horizon

GA-ASI Breaks Ground on a New Hangar in El Mirage

New hangar space will house and test GA-ASI's latest Remotely Piloted Aircraft (RPA), the MQ-9B SkyGuardian® and SeaGuardian®

SAN DIEGO – 18 January 2026 – General Atomics Aeronautical Systems, Inc. (GA-ASI) began construction January 14 on a new hangar at El Mirage Airfield in El Mirage, California. The new construction is in the high desert of Southern California adjacent to GA-ASI's current Desert Horizon Flight Operations Facility.

GA-ASI plans to build nearly 85,000 square feet of new hangar space that will house and test GA-ASI's latest Remotely Piloted Aircraft (RPA), the MQ-9B SkyGuardian®/SeaGuardian®. As part of the new construction, GA-ASI expects to dedicate space to support as many as a dozen new Certifiable Ground Control Station (CGCS), which are used to operate the RPA.

The groundbreaking event featured GA-ASI team members, as well as local dignitaries.

Speakers included GA-ASI CEO **Linden Blue**, San Bernardino County Supervisor, Second District **Jesse Armendarez**, and Parkway Construction CEO **Ryan Elmer**. Parkway is leading the construction of the new hangar.

"Breaking ground on a new facility is always an exciting day for our company," said GA-ASI CEO Linden Blue. "We continue to fill our order book for new MQ-9Bs, which represent the latest in RPA technology, so it's important that we have the right team and facilities in place to build and test these important aircraft."

Nations across the world continue ordering the class-leading MQ-9B, from the United Kingdom to Canada to several others. Last week, Germany became the latest with the purchase of eight SeaGuardians.

In addition to supporting RPA and CGCS development, the new hangar will feature three aircraft launch pads and four new Gates Terminals.

Article Link: [GA-ASI Breaks Ground on a New Hangar in El Mirage | General Atomics](#)



GA-ASI broke ground on a new hangar in El Mirage, Calif. on January 14. From left to right: Bart Roper, Ryan Elmer (Parkway), Tuan Nguyen, Jim Burghard, Linden Blue, Jesse Armendarez (San Bernardino County) and Dave Hyatt

In The News (continued)

Timothy Neetz Joins General Atomics as Senior Director of Remote Space Sensing Satellites

SAN DIEGO (Jan. 27, 2026) – General Atomics Electromagnetic Systems (GA-EMS) announced today that **Timothy Neetz** has joined the organization as senior director of Remote Space Sensing Satellites. Neetz will be responsible for expanding GA-EMS's Remote Space Sensing Systems' portfolio leading complex, high-consequence space programs from early concept to execution.

"Mr. Neetz brings a wealth of experience in spacecraft and payload development with a strong background integrating advanced technologies to deliver operational capability for U.S. government initiatives," said **Scott Forney**, president of GA-EMS. *"His technical credibility, depth of knowledge, and mission-first mindset driving space technology innovation will be instrumental in our continued growth in national security and commitment to delivering advanced sensing capabilities for critical space-based mission solutions and emerging customer needs."*

"GA-EMS expertise in advanced space systems technologies elevates critical capabilities in support of national security objectives. It is an honor to continue deploying some of

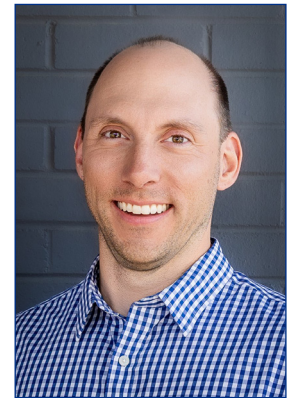
the nation's highest performing surveillance and sensing assets at this caliber," said Neetz.

Neetz joins GA-EMS following multiple senior leadership roles supporting a broad portfolio of defense and national security missions. His technical program management background and strategic operational execution have enabled organizations to field advanced defense and space systems on time and in alignment with evolving mission needs.

He holds a Master of Business Administration with a career encompassing acquisition, advanced aerospace systems, and highly classified space domain initiatives. Neetz has worked for the U.S. Air Force and as a deputy materiel leader with the U.S. Space Force. His experience includes roles with the U.S. Special Operations Command and work on major air domain programs, including F-22, MQ-9, and KC-46.

Neetz will be based out of the GA-EMS Englewood, Colo., facility.

Article Link: [Timothy Neetz Joins General Atomics as Senior Director of Remote Space Sensing Satellites | General Atomics.](#)



Timothy Neetz,
Senior Director
Remote Space Sensing Satellites

General Atomics Promotes Mike Rucker to Vice President of Weapons Programs

SAN DIEGO (March 4, 2026) — General Atomics Electromagnetic Systems (GA EMS) announced today the promotion of **Mike Rucker** to vice president of the Weapons Programs Division. Rucker, who has held positions of increasing responsibility since joining General Atomics in 2003, will have overall leadership and day-to-day operations responsibilities for GA EMS' Missile Defense and Advanced Weapons Systems portfolio. In addition, Rucker will be responsible for growth leadership and program management to transition next generation munitions and advanced weapons technologies into production to enhance the safety and effectiveness of U.S. and allied forces. Rucker's appointment reflects GA EMS' continued commitment to accelerate development and delivery of advanced weapon systems.

"Mike's leadership and industry expertise are central to GA EMS' mission of delivering decisive capability to the warfighter. He understands the urgency of today's threat environment and is driven to turn advanced technologies into field-ready weapons systems

to meet the nation's most urgent defense needs," said **Scott Forney**, GA-EMS president.

"I'm proud to help guide GA EMS' weapons programs at a time when transitioning advanced technologies into production is more important than ever. Our team is driving real capability into the hands of warfighters, and I'm eager to build on that momentum as we deliver systems that expand range, precision, and survivability," Rucker said.

Rucker has more than 20 years of experience overseeing the development, integration and deployment of advanced weapon systems. He holds an MBA and bachelor's degree in mathematics and computer science from the University of California, San Diego.

Article Link: [General Atomics Promotes Mike Rucker to Vice President of Weapons Programs | General Atomics.](#)



Mike Rucker,
Vice President of GA-EMS
Weapons Programs.

In The News (continued)

Germany Buys Eight MQ-9B SeaGuardian RPA Through NSPA

NSPA Supports NATO Countries in the Acquisition and Sustainment of GA-ASI's Advanced Multi-Domain RPA

SAN DIEGO – 12 January 2026 – Germany's Federal Office of Bundeswehr Equipment, Information Technology and In-Service Support and the NATO Support and Procurement Agency (NSPA) have announced the procurement of eight MQ-9B SeaGuardian® Remotely Piloted Aircraft (RPA) from General Atomics Aeronautical Systems, Inc. (GA-ASI). The program includes four Certifiable Ground Control Stations. First delivery is expected in 2028.

Germany joins a growing list of NATO countries that have selected GA-ASI's advanced MQ-9B RPA for its multi-domain capabilities with exceptionally long range and endurance. The platform provides pole-to-pole satellite control and de-icing capabilities to enable missions in cold climates. SeaGuardian features two multi-mode surface-search radars that deliver wide-area maritime surveillance, with an option to add Anti-Submarine Warfare capability. Additionally, MQ-9B's in-house-developed Detect and Avoid System aids its ability to fly in unsegregated airspace for domestic civilian operations, making it highly versatile for operations from Germany.

In 2025, MQ-9B became the first large RPA to obtain a [Military Type Certificate](#) from the UK's Military Aviation Authority, certifying its safe operation without geographic restrictions, including over populous areas.

"We're thrilled that Germany has joined the list of NATO countries that have selected MQ-9B SeaGuardian," said GA-ASI CEO **Linden Blue**. *"The proliferation of MQ-9B in Europe delivers commonality between NATO countries and for Germany, it will provide opportunities for interoperability with their fleet of P-8As."*

The acquisition negotiation was executed on behalf of Germany by NSPA, which has developed a contractual framework through the MQ-9 Support Partnership (MIC SP) for supporting cooperation amongst its member nations and enabling the procurement of MQ-9B for NATO Allies and Partners. NSPA has added MQ-9B to its portfolio of defense systems to contract on behalf of NATO nations, with the goal of enhancing interoperability for joint training and operations.



GA-ASI and NSPA signed a contract to purchase eight MQ-9B SeaGuardians for Germany on January 12. From left to right: Allan McLeod, NSPA, Chris Dusseault, GA-ASI, and Joseph Lyden, NSPA.

"This Support Partnership demonstrates how NSPA enables efficient, effective and responsive multinational acquisitions for advanced, interoperable capabilities. We are proud to support Germany in this strategic investment for maritime surveillance and security," said Ms. **Stacy A. Cummings**, NSPA General Manager.

MQ-9B includes the SkyGuardian® and SeaGuardian® models as well as the Protector RG Mk1 that is currently being delivered to the United Kingdom's Royal Air Force (RAF). GA-ASI also has MQ-9B procurement contracts with Belgium, Canada, Denmark, India, Japan, Poland, Taiwan and the U.S. Air Force in support of the Special Operations Command and is looking forward to welcoming Germany to that group. MQ-9B has also been featured



in various U.S. Navy exercises, including [Northern Edge](#), [Integrated Battle Problem](#), [RIMPAC](#), and [Group Sail](#).

Article Link: [Germany Buys Eight MQ-9B SeaGuardian RPA Through NSPA | General Atomics](#).

Should you have any questions regarding the SQPI, please reach out to your established GA Quality Assurance counterpart to set up a discussion.

In The News (continued)

GA-ASI Develops Long-Range Weapons Capabilities for MQ-9B

Industry Leading UAS Expands Mission Roles To Include Naval Strike

SAN DIEGO – 23 February 2026 – General Atomics Aeronautical Systems, Inc. (GA-ASI) is developing the addition of long-range standoff weapons to its top-of-the-line MQ-9B SkyGuardian® and SeaGuardian®.

Demand continues from naval and air warfighters for platforms that can hold targets at risk from great ranges, especially over the expanses of air and water in the Western Pacific. That's why GA-ASI engineers have begun the work of adapting MQ-9B's payload, stability, range and other features to accommodate the new generation of extended-range precision weapons.

"MQ-9B continues to impress in the field and we keep adding to our global customer list," said GA-ASI President **David R. Alexander**.

"We want to continue to build value in the aircraft by expanding into more missions. MQ-9B features extraordinary payload capacity, so it only makes sense to add to our mission sets with the ability to carry long-range weapons."

So far, GA-ASI has performed all the performance analytics and is confident in MQ-9B's ability to carry long-range weapons over long distances, while providing a measure of persistence and endurance.

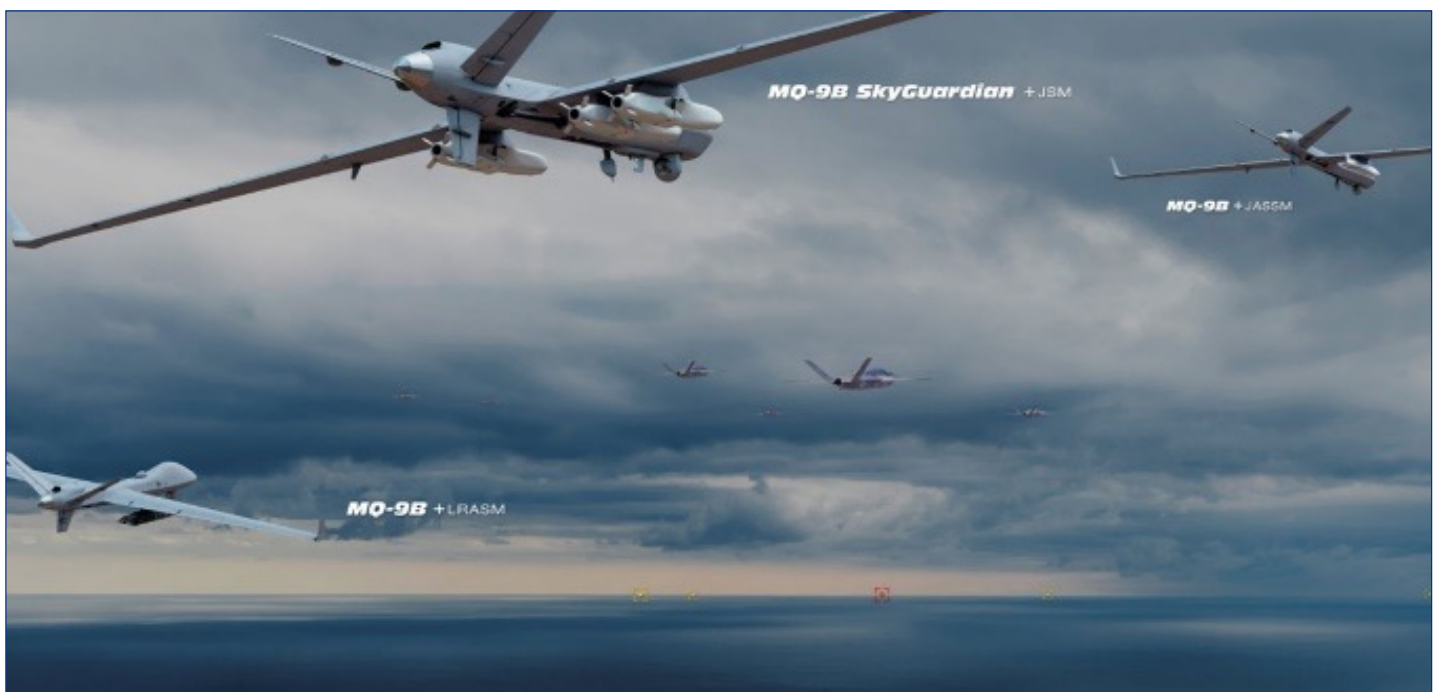
Company engineers and others continue to refine the technical aspects of this integration and potential concepts of operation, eyeing weapons such as the Lockheed Martin Joint Air-to-Surface Standoff Missile and Long-Range Anti-Ship Missile, as well as the Kongsberg/Raytheon Joint Strike Missile.

GA-ASI plans to fly at least one of these new weapons as early as 2026.

Hypothetically, a mission profile might look like this: MQ-9Bs could launch from a number of friendly bases in the Western or Southern Pacific, fly to a hold point and loiter there outside a hostile power's weapons engagement zone. If the order came to release the weapons, the aircraft could launch them in coordination with other U.S. or allied operations.

In addition to the SkyGuardian and SeaGuardian models, MQ-9B also includes the Protector RG Mk1 that is currently being delivered to the United Kingdom's Royal Air Force (RAF). GA-ASI also has MQ-9B procurement contracts with Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Germany, India, Japan, Poland, Taiwan and the U.S. Air Force in support of the Special Operations Command. MQ-9B has also been featured in various U.S. Navy exercises, including [Northern Edge](#), [Integrated Battle Problem](#), [RIMPAC](#), and [Group Sail](#).

Article Link: [GA-ASI Develops Long-Range Weapons Capabilities for MQ-9B | General Atomics](#).



In The News (continued)



General Atomics Selected for Phase 3 of US Space Force Enterprise Space Terminal Program Following Successful Laser Crosslink Verification

SAN DIEGO (April 27, 2026) — General Atomics Electromagnetic Systems (GA-EMS) has been selected to perform Phase 3 of the U.S. Space Force's Enterprise Space Terminal (EST) program following successful government verification of the company's optical communication terminal (OCT) at MIT Lincoln Laboratory's Optical Terminal Verification Testbed (OTVT). Phase 3 will transition the EST effort from prototype development into flight hardware production and demonstration.

The independent verification campaign confirmed the OCT's performance, interoperability, and technical readiness for full system integration and flight terminal development. Successful completion of the OTVT test campaign confirmed the GA-EMS OCT architecture meets the thresholds required to support standardized satellite laser crosslinks. As the prime contractor, GA-EMS is teamed with L3Harris for the modem subsystem and Advanced Space to provide performance modelling.

"Completion of Phase 2 marks a significant milestone for our team underscoring the maturing and successful validation of key subsystems of our OCT through rigorous analysis and testing. This achievement positions us well as we move into

Phase 3, where we will integrate and demonstrate a flight laser communications terminal. We are excited to take this next step in delivering robust, mission-ready capability that advances resilient, high-capacity space network connectivity for national security operations," **Scott Forney**, president of GA-EMS, said.

The EST program will establish standardized OCTs to enable spacecraft from multiple programs and vendors to exchange data directly using a common enterprise waveform. By enabling high-capacity laser crosslinks beyond low Earth orbit, the architecture reduces reliance on ground relay stations and accelerates the delivery of time-critical information for joint forces and national security missions.

"The successful execution of Phases 1 and 2 reflects the strength of our technical approach and our team's ability to translate innovative optical communications concepts into validated, high-performing hardware. As we transition into Phase 3, we are focused on integrating and demonstrating a complete system that is not only mission-capable, but also scalable and producible to meet the evolving needs of resilient space architectures," **Klaus Etzel**, vice president of GA-EMS Remote Space Sensing Systems, said.

Article Link: [General Atomics Selected for Phase 3 of US Space Force Enterprise Space Terminal Program Following Successful Laser Crosslink Verification | General Atomics.](#)

In The News (continued)

US Air Force Awards GA-ASI Production Contract for FQ-42A CCA

Company Will Produce Service's New Uncrewed Combat Jets

SAN DIEGO – 17 June 2026 – General Atomics Aeronautical Systems, Inc. (GA-ASI) has received a production contract from the U.S. Air Force (USAF) for the FQ-42A Collaborative Combat Aircraft (CCA). The initial order is a significant milestone, beginning the delivery of production aircraft to the warfighter. GA-ASI designed, developed and flight-tested FQ-42A on an accelerated schedule unlike any fighter in recent history.

"This is an exciting day for our company and the nation," said company President **David R. Alexander**. *"Moving to production on FQ-42A is the result of an extraordinary partnership and many years of investments between General Atomics and the U.S. Air Force. We've been preparing for this order, and manufacturing is already well underway."*

The FQ-42A is a purpose-built, uncrewed fighter developed as part of ongoing investment in next-generation semi-autonomous combat aircraft. The aircraft's modular design enables rapid integration of mission systems and mission autonomy software. GA-ASI's software architecture, demonstrated through live flight tests on multiple airframes, provides the foundation for human-machine teaming in complex combat scenarios.

The development effort by GA-ASI fast-tracked, with the aircraft moving from contract award to first flight in just 15 months, one of the fastest rollouts of a new fighter in history.

GA-ASI was selected by the U.S. Air Force in 2024 to build production-representative flight test articles for the CCA program. The YFQ-42A successfully conducted its maiden flight in August 2025, validating a "genus/species" concept for rapid, modular, and low-cost uncrewed fighter aircraft development previously demonstrated in partnership with U.S. Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL).

GA-ASI's approach enables a common core aircraft design that can be rapidly adapted for different mission sets and service requirements. GA-ASI's Gambit Series concept for CCA envisions multiple variants that serve specific needs, including long-endurance surveillance; air-to-air superiority; air-to-ground strike and more.

GA-ASI has been building and flying uncrewed jets for nearly two decades, beginning with the company-funded, weaponized MQ-20 Avenger® in 2008. The company's XQ-67A Off-Board Sensing Station jet, developed in collaboration with AFRL, is a cutting-edge model for autonomous collaborative platforms with advanced airborne sensing and served as a flying prototype for the FQ-42A concept.

Pre-production versions of the new fighter were designated "YFQ-42;" with "Y" designating a prototype phase. The award of an Air Force production contract means the forthcoming aircraft will be among the first in history to carry the novel FQ designation: "F" for fighter and "Q" designating the platform is uncrewed.

Article Link: <https://www.ga.com/us-air-force-awards-ga-asi-production-contract-for-fq-42a-cca>.

The FQ-42A



GA-ASI was selected by the U.S. Air Force in 2024 to build production-representative flight test articles for the CCA program. The YFQ-42A successfully conducted its maiden flight in August 2025, validating a "genus/species" concept for rapid, modular, and low-cost uncrewed fighter aircraft development previously demonstrated in partnership with U.S. Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL).

As a high technology and high concept provider of Defense and Energy solutions, GA is uniquely positioned for growth and success.

Global progress through technology remains our mission. GA appreciates the support of its Suppliers in accomplishing this mission.

Remember to contact your Purchasing Representative about any questions regarding open Orders or your continued performance. Your Purchasing Representative is your primary point of contact. Please advise your Purchasing Representative when contacted by other GA personnel. If you have any comments or questions about this publication, please contact us at SupplierEngagement@GA.com.