

NEWS RELEASE



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XCEL to power Watchkeeper Payloads

New development programmes worth over £160,000 awarded



XCEL Power Systems, based in Ashford, Kent, have been awarded two major contracts in connection with the UK's Watchkeeper Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) Programme.

Watchkeeper will provide the UK armed forces with an essential Intelligence, Surveillance, Target Acquisition and Reconnaissance (ISTAR) capability based on a tactical unmanned air vehicle system and will be a key component of the UK's drive for Network Enabled Capability (NEC).

Thales UK has awarded XCEL a contract for the design and manufacture of power supplies for the I-Master Radar, the all-weather surveillance payload to be installed on the Watchkeeper UAV. Working closely with the project team at Crawley, XCEL are designing the power supply for the radar's Microwave Power Module.

Another key Watchkeeper subcontractor, Ultra Electronics Limited at Greenford, has selected XCEL for the design and manufacture of power supplies for the High Integrity Data Link, which plays a vital role in communications between the UAVs and Ground Station Controllers.

These developments require robust solutions, capable of operating under extremes of temperature, maintaining EMC compliance and high reliability, within a very low mass budget. Both projects are well underway, with early validation hardware expected to be available in Q4 2006, and production deliverables 2007 onwards.

Richard Weller, XCEL's Managing Director said, "XCEL is already an established supplier on many other Thales programmes, with power supplies installed in aircraft equipment, ground systems, and on board Navy vessels. Inclusion on the UK's Watchkeeper programme has been an objective for us for some time, and we are very pleased to have secured these key contracts".

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