

# **DARPA TTO Air and Space Portfolio Update**

---

Ms. Pamela A. Melroy, Deputy Director  
DARPA Tactical Technology Office

Briefing prepared for the National Research Council Aeronautics and  
Space Engineering Board (ASEB) Meeting

April 25, 2016





## DARPA Mission

---

The Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) was established in 1958 to **prevent strategic surprise** from negatively affecting U.S. national security and **create strategic surprise** for U.S. adversaries by maintaining the technological superiority of the U.S. military.

To fulfill its mission, the Agency relies on **diverse performers** to apply multi-disciplinary approaches to both advance knowledge through basic research and **create innovative technologies** that address current practical problems through applied research.

As the DoD's **primary innovation engine**, DARPA undertakes projects that are finite in duration but that create **lasting revolutionary change**.



# DARPA Technical Offices

## TTO Tactical Technology Office

- Neurotechnologies
- Engineering Biology
- Outpacing Infectious Disease

- Math, Modeling & Design
- Physical Systems
- Human-Machine Systems

- Empower the Human within the Information Ecosystem
- Guarantee Trustworthy Computing and Information

- EM Spectrum
- Tactical Information Extraction
- Globalization

- System of Systems (SoS)
- Battle Management, Command & Control (BMC2)
- Communications and Networks
- Electronic Warfare (EW)
- Intelligence, Surveillance, and Recon
- Positioning, Navigation, & Timing (PNT)

- Ground, Maritime, Air, & Space Systems
- Agile Development
- Cooperative Autonomy
- Unmanned Systems
- Power and Propulsion

**BTO**  
Biological  
Technologies  
Office

**DSO**  
Defense  
Sciences  
Office

**I2O**  
Information  
Innovation  
Office

**MTO**  
Microsystems  
Technology  
Office

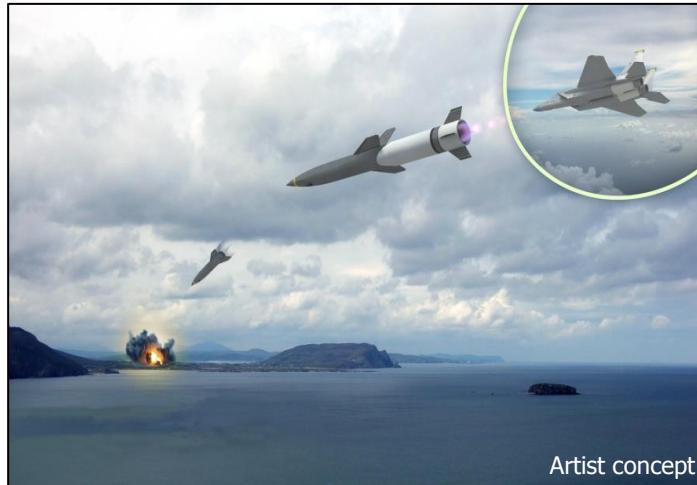
**STO**  
Strategic  
Technology  
Office



# TTO Hypersonic Portfolio

## Hypersonic Air-breathing Weapon Concept (HAWC)

Goal: Transformational changes in responsive, long-range strike capabilities against time-critical or heavily defended targets



The HAWC program is a joint DARPA/Air Force effort that seeks to develop and demonstrate technologies that would enable transformational changes in responsive, long-range strike capabilities against time-critical or heavily defended targets

Three primary objectives for both programs include Vehicle Feasibility, Effectiveness, and Affordability

## Tactical Boost Glide (TBG)

Goal: Enabling air-launched, tactical-range hypersonic boost glide systems



The TBG program is a joint DARPA/Air Force effort that seeks to develop and demonstrate technologies to enable air-launched, tactical-range hypersonic boost glide systems

Gremlins seeks to develop an air-launched, air-recoverable platform to enable a new class of distributed airborne capabilities (DAC)

Aims to move away from approach reliant on effectiveness/survivability of individual, monolithic platforms



Artist's Concept



Artist's Concept

In distributed model, a volley of small vehicles are air-launched, execute distributed warfare missions and can be recovered

- Seeks to provide cost-effective contested/denied environment capability
  - Host-symbiont concept would overcome range and responsiveness limitations inherent in small platforms
  - Recovery capability would facilitate reuse of costly payloads and reduce cost per use
- Would be enabled by air-launched, air-recoverable platforms: gremlins
  - ~300 nm ingress/egress, ~1+ hr loiter
  - Would deploy in volleys and be recovered with existing host aircraft

Beginning Phase 1

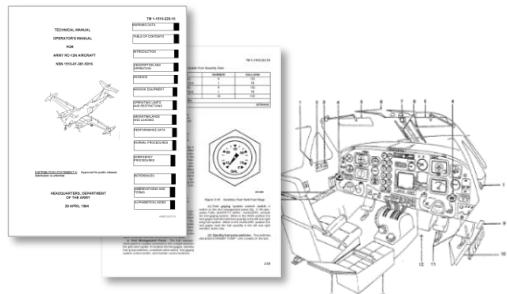


# Aircrew Labor In-cockpit Automation System (ALIAS)

ALIAS seeks to develop a drop-in automation kit to advance state-of-the-art automation in the Cockpit

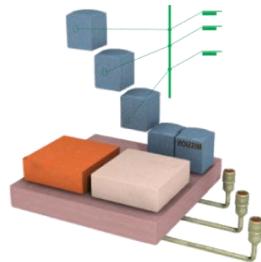


Artist's Concepts



## ALIAS conversion kit

Short non-recurring engineering effort;  
rapid per-tail "ALIAS"  
modification with low  
per-tail target cost



## Apps

- Basic mission navigation (ALIAS-provided)  
*Open developer interface:*
- Mission-specific (e.g. tactical logistics)
- Payload-specific (e.g. ISR)
- Enhanced capability (e.g. sense and avoid)

Variable (2/1) crew operation via simple tablet/voice interface common to on-board and off-board operation

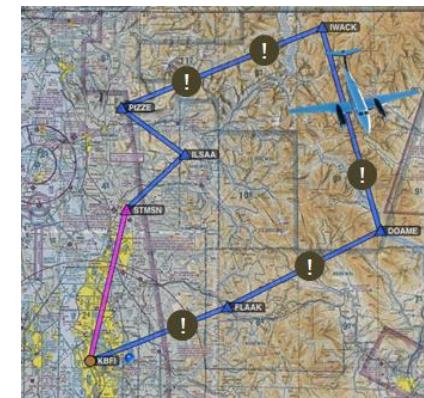


[unmannedtechshop.co.uk](http://unmannedtechshop.co.uk)



ALIAS:

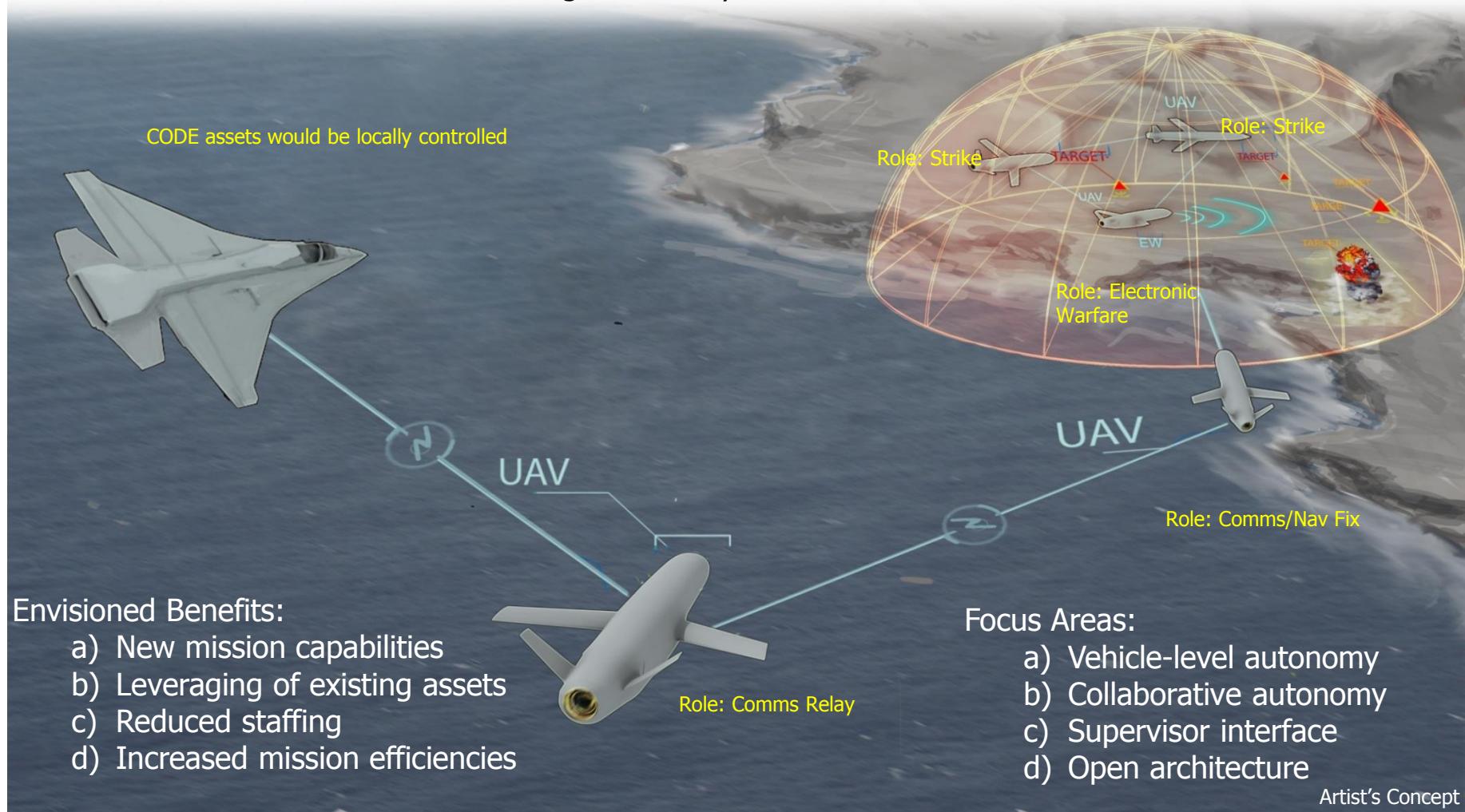
Artist's Concept



ALIAS plans to demonstrate a complete flight from takeoff to landing, including dealing with contingencies

Finishing Phase 1, starting Phase 2 later this year

CODE seeks to develop and demonstrate the algorithms to expand the mission capabilities of legacy assets through autonomy and collaborative behaviors



## Kicking Off Phase 2

- Design, develop, build and fly an experimental aircraft that can:
  - Fly at high speeds
  - Hover efficiently
  - Cruise efficiently
  - Perform useful work
- Demonstrate at relevant scale
  - $GW_{X\text{-Plane}} = 10,000 \text{ lbs} - 12,000 \text{ lbs}$
  - Allowed for 20% margin above 10,000 lbs to capture variability in designs and COTS
  - Technology scalability in either direction – lighter/heavier
- Validate X-Plane capabilities in flight
  - Demonstrate, measure, verify

Demonstrate these objectives concurrently on a single aircraft



Artist's Concept

Performance Objectives	State of the Art (Helicopter)	VTOL X-Plane
Sustained max. speed	150-170 kt	$\geq 300 \text{ kt}$
Hover efficiency (Aircraft FM)	60%	$\geq 75\%$
Cruise efficiency (Aircraft L/De)	4-5	$\geq 10$
Useful Load	35-40% GW	$\geq 40\% \text{ GW}$



Kicking Off Phase 2

- The original Airborne Launch Assist Space Access (ALASA) program goal was to develop and fly a small satellite launch system
  - Deliver 100 lbs to low Earth orbit for \$1M/flight
  - 24-hour call-up to orbit; 12-hour relocation to an alternate launch site
  - Program plan included 12-demonstration launches
- Technical challenges with propellant development showed it is premature to proceed to flight
  - Unable to achieve controlled ignition, stable combustion
- Continuing to pursue enabling and enhancing technologies, which will be shared with the community
  - Additional propellant safety testing
  - Complete and transition software and hardware which are designed to reduce range and flight operations costs

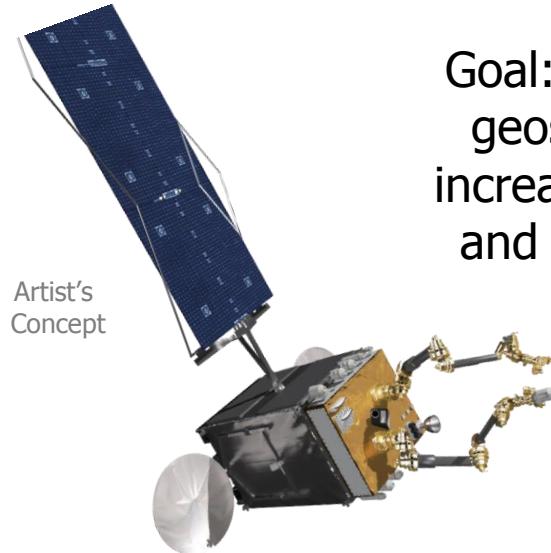


Artist Concept



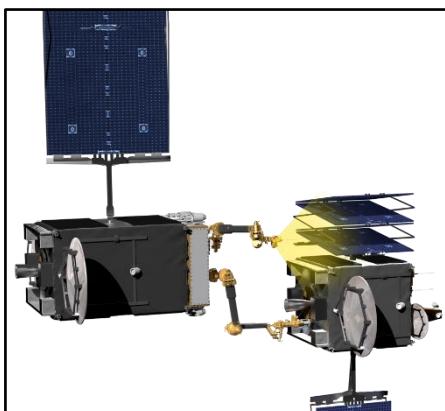
Artist Concept

Current actions further ALASA program objectives, even without a fielded system

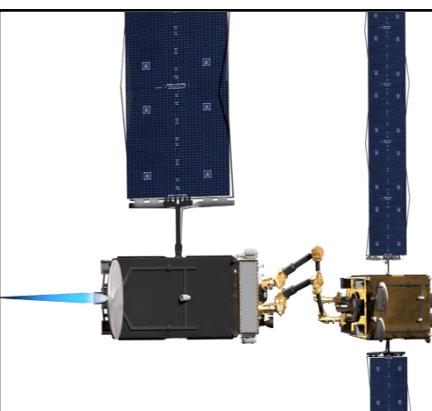


Goal: To create a dexterous robotic operational capability in geosynchronous Earth orbit (GEO), that can both provide increased resilience for the current U.S. space infrastructure, and be the first concrete step toward a transformed space architecture with revolutionary capabilities

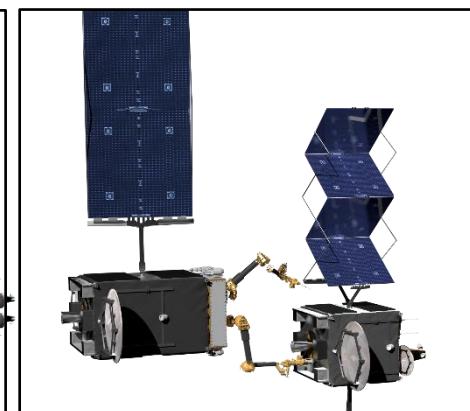
Envisioned Mission ensemble



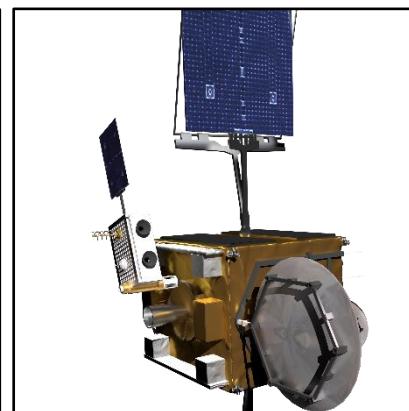
Cooperatively **inspect** spacecraft experiencing anomalies



Cooperatively **assist** with orbit adjustments



Cooperatively **correct** mechanical problems



Cooperatively **install** self-contained payloads on-orbit

Program solicitation posting soon

Goal: Lower launch costs and increase space capabilities with aircraft-like space access

XS-1 aims to:

- Break cycle of escalating space system costs by:
  - Enabling future space system architectures
  - Leveraging interests & capabilities of commercial sector and space tourism
- Expand the reusable air-launched concept with a hypersonic vehicle capable of launching 3,000- to 5,000-lb payloads for less than \$5M
- Mature and integrate technologies supporting launch and hypersonic vehicles
- Demonstrate mission assurance by flying 10 times in 10 days



Finishing Phase 1, Phase 2 kickoff at the end of 2016



[www.darpa.mil](http://www.darpa.mil)