



# News Release

## Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency

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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **DARPA EXTENDS UNMANNED COMBAT AIR VEHICLE CONTRACT TO BOEING**

DARPA has agreed to terms of the planned contract extension to Boeing for the Unmanned Combat Air Vehicle, or UCAV, initiating work on advanced versions of the UCAV demonstrator aircraft.

That work will put the program on a path to provide the U.S. Air Force with UCAV initial operational capability by 2008. UCAV is the first unmanned system designed for combat from inception.

The contract award is for \$460M. DARPA is providing \$90M and the Air Force is providing \$370M. The resources required for the new demonstrator (X-45B) is approximately \$400M. The difference (\$60M) is for completing the current X-45A effort.

The contract extension funds several activities: a fourth block of X-45A software development and flight testing, two new demonstrator aircraft, which are designated X-45B, two shipping/storage containers, an updated mission control station, and Block 5 software and flight test.

The first X-45B is to be completed in Summer 2004, and begin flight-testing late that year. The second will be delivered early in 2005. The X-45B will be larger and more capable than the X-45A demonstrator aircraft currently in flight-testing.

UCAV is pioneering spiral development, an acquisition process to quickly provide war fighters with essential capabilities, and keep pace with developments in technology and warfighter needs by fielding additional capability in subsequent spirals.

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