



Ministry
of Defence

Defence Equipment and Support
Secretariat
#2043 Maple 0a
Ministry of Defence
Abbey Wood
Bristol BS34 8JH



Email: DES SEC-PolSec LE-JSC-WPNS@mod.uk

Our Reference:
FOI2022/11057
Date:
17 October 2022

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email of 23 September 2022, requesting the following information:

'I would like to know the rotorcraft performance parameters specified in the £60M. R&D contract, awarded by DE&S to Leonardo Helicopters this year to design and manufacture a Proteus UAS prototype under RWUAS Capability Concept Demonstration (CCD): specifically endurance, range, payload, speed, MTOW, maximum dimensions, and cost-ceiling for production aircraft. Any take-off, cruise, and landing noise limitations too.

It is believed much of the rotorcraft transport capability can be - will be - provided more cost-effectively in the future by hydrogen-powered ultra-short-STOL aircraft and that the U.K. should be actively supporting this to deliver maximum value to the taxpayer.'

Your request has been handled in accordance with the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act 2000.

A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence (MOD), and I can confirm that some information in scope of your request is held.

No performance parameters are explicitly specified in the Research & Development contract for a Proteus UAS prototype. The primary driving outcome is to understand the viability of a new class of air vehicle and provide evidence generating experiments and demonstrations necessary to support the anticipated 2025 Integrated Review and other MOD decisions. Individual performance parameters will be established within any future programme to address this desire and will be judged as a whole at that point.

In relation to future rotorcraft transport capability, Proteus will consider the technology status and potential growth options regarding all current and potential fuel types and their associated propulsion systems to ensure best system capability and value outcomes for MOD customers, UK Industry and the taxpayer.

If you have any queries regarding the content of this letter, please contact this office in the first instance. If you wish to complain about the handling of your request, or the content of this response, you can request an independent internal review by contacting the Information Rights Compliance team, Ground Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail CIO-FOI-IR@mod.gov.uk). Please note that any request for an internal review should be made within 40 working days of the date of this response.

Defence Equipment & Support

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may raise your complaint directly to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not normally investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website at <https://ico.org.uk/>.

Yours sincerely,

DE&S Secretariat