



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Aurora Flight Sciences Initiates Collaborative Program with Olin College of Engineering

Cambridge, MA, September 16, 2008 – Aurora Flight Sciences announced today the beginning of a collaboration with the Franklin W. Olin College of Engineering in Needham, Massachusetts. The collaboration, under the umbrella of Olin’s Senior Consulting Program for Engineering (SCOPE) program, will bring together a team of senior Olin students with Aurora engineers to solve real-life engineering problems.

The Olin SCOPE team sponsored by Aurora this year will be supporting a research effort in the area of autonomous multi-vehicle cooperative control for unmanned air and sea vehicles conducting littoral operations. Such operations can include missions as varied as mine search, force protection, and search, detection, and identification of threats in riverine, harbor, or coastal environments.

The main objective of this project will be to successfully deploy multi-vehicle coordination algorithms onto teams of actual Unmanned Surface Vessels (USVs) and Unmanned Air Vehicles (UAVs), using Aurora’s On-board Planning Module (OPM). The OPM is a combined hardware/software element that enables coordination among teams of heterogeneous vehicles. The Olin SCOPE team will be providing a USV of their design to participate in multi-vehicle in-water demonstrations with Aurora’s USV. To this end, the SCOPE team will engineer the integration of the Aurora OPM into their USV system, install the OPM, and conduct end-to-end system testing. In addition, the Olin SCOPE team will research, develop, and integrate a target sensor that can be used by the USV during demonstrations to identify and track test targets.

About Aurora Flight Sciences

Aurora Flight Sciences designs and builds robotic aircraft and other advanced aerospace vehicles for scientific and military applications. Aurora is headquartered in Manassas, VA and operates production plants in Bridgeport, WV and Columbus, MS and a Research and Development Center in Cambridge, MA. To view recent press releases and more about Aurora please visit our web site at www.aurora.aero.

About Olin College

The Franklin W. Olin College of engineering was founded in 2002 around goals including project based learning; interdisciplinary teaching; an emphasis on entrepreneurship, teamwork and communication; and a consideration of the social and economic contexts of engineering. The F.W. Olin Foundation, Olin College’s benefactor, felt the best way to make rapid progress toward these goals was to create an agile, forward-looking institution able to implement the needed changes in engineering education from a clean slate. Since 1997, the Foundation has committed more than \$460 million to create and fund the college, one of the largest grants in the history of American higher education.

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