

Statement of

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Subcommittee on Contracting and the Workforce

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Please allow me to thank Congressman Steve Knight for inviting me to testify in front of the Small Business Subcommittee on Contracting and the Workforce. I am honored to represent the 650 proud employees of AeroVironment.

AeroVironment is a technology solutions provider that designs, develops, produces, supports and operates an advanced portfolio of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) and electric transportation solutions. Agencies of the U.S. Department of Defense and allied military services use the company's electric-powered, hand-launched unmanned aircraft systems extensively to provide situational awareness to tactical operating units through real-time, airborne reconnaissance, surveillance and communication. AeroVironment's electric transportation solutions include a comprehensive suite of electric vehicle (EV) charging systems, installation and network services for consumers, automakers, utilities and government agencies, power cycling and test systems for EV developers, and industrial electric vehicle charging systems for commercial fleets.

Unmanned Aircraft Systems

With more than 25 years of experience developing, supplying and supporting small UAS, AeroVironment is a prime contractor and supplier to all U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) programs of record for this category of UAS and has delivered more than 20,000 new and replacement air vehicles to customers in the U.S. and elsewhere. AeroVironment's family of small UAS includes Raven®, Wasp™, Puma™

and Shrike VTOL™. These back packable/ man portable, hand-launched unmanned aircraft systems are carried and used by armed forces -- who frequently operate across large geographic areas, often far removed from their bases and dependent mainly on what they can carry in their packs or vehicles - and deliver front-line, real-time situational awareness to increase combat effectiveness and force protection. By transmitting live, streaming color and infrared video from onboard cameras directly to a common, hand-held Ground Control System with an embedded color monitor, AeroVironment's UAS provide real-time information that helps U.S. and allied armed forces operate more safely and effectively.

Mr. Chairman, thank you for the opportunity to be here today to discuss the opportunities and challenges of business with the Department of Defense. I would be happy to answer any questions.