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FlexRadio Used by GA-ASI to Demonstrate BLOS Command and Control over HF

Austin, Texas – February 8, 2021: FlexRadio Systems, today announced their success in working with General Atomics Aeronautical Systems, Inc (GA-ASI) to demonstrate the first Beyond Line of Site (BLOS) High Frequency (HF) Command and Control (C2) for an Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS). The HF C2 capability can provide BLOS connectivity up to 8,000 miles, depending on transmit power and link geometry.

For the demo, GA-ASI integrated the U.S. Government's Collaborative Operations in Denied Environment (CODE) autonomy software into the Open Operational Flight Profile (OFP) of an MQ-9A Block 5 Remotely Piloted Aircraft (RPA) and flew the MQ-9 using improved diagonal tails with conformal HF antennas incorporated into the leading edges.

The GA-ASI's MQ-9 housed a FlexRadio FLEX-6600 HF software defined radio and associated hardware to translate and execute an autonomous mission plan. GA-ASI created a specialized HF software adapter to manage the unique latency and throughput constraints of the HF waveform to demonstrate BLOS command and control of the RPA.

"FlexRadio is excited to have been part of this successful demonstration", stated Matt Youngblood, VP Business Development for FlexRadio. "FlexRadio's solution of high dynamic range, combined with an open API to allow ease of implementation of new services and protocols, allowed for rapid implementation flexibility."



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The demonstration was flown out of Laguna Army Airfield/Yuma Proving Grounds and the MQ-9 was commanded from Austin, Texas approximately 1,000 miles away over an HF C2 link. This capability enables an operator to task the MQ-9 without needing SATCOM, providing a means to operate in SATCOM-denied, contested environments.

About FlexRadio Systems

FlexRadio Systems is a leader in technologically advanced software defined radio systems for the consumer, commercial and government markets. Founded in 2003, FlexRadio has customers in more than 30 countries with a wide range of products spanning consumer HF radio systems, government geolocation sensors and signals intelligence platforms. FlexRadio Systems is headquartered in Austin, Texas. For more information, please visit www.flexradio.com.