



FIRST RF Radar Phased Array Antenna in Successful Predator B Sense & Avoid System Flight Testing



General Atomics Predator B equipped with FIRST RF X-band Active Electronically Steered Array (AESA)

Boulder, CO – 10 March 2015 - General Atomics Aeronautical Systems, Inc.'s (GA-ASI's) successful flight testing of its Due Regard Radar (DRR) included a FIRST RF X-band Active Electronically Steered Array (AESA). The FRF-240 radar phased array antenna was used in the airborne Sense and Avoid (SAA) system testing aboard a Predator B test aircraft. The GA-ASI DRR system demonstrations in December 2014 utilized a pair of FRF-240 arrays to provide accurate real-time tracking of multiple targets.

The FRF-240 X-band phased array features rapid 2-D electronic scanning, an extremely wide Field of Regard (FOR), monopulse receiver beamforming, and air-cooled technology. The array also provides low-power standby modes with rapid startup times. The FRF-240 is the culmination of an internally funded product development effort by FIRST RF to produce flyable prototype hardware in less than 12 months.

Flight testing of the prototype antennas integrated with the pre-production GA-ASI radar system was conducted in a manned King Air test aircraft during summer 2014 prior to the unmanned flights. Flight testing aboard Predator B was completed at GA-ASI's Gray Butte Flight Operations Facility throughout December 2014 and included tracking multiple small- and medium-sized manned aircraft while searching a wide FOR. The DRR system is planned for continued flight testing aboard Predator B.