

PteroDynamics Receives New Investment, International Contract

BY TIFFANY LANCASTER

PteroDynamics, the Colorado Springs-based aerospace company known for its patented folding-wing aircraft technology, is entering a new phase of growth as it expands manufacturing, secures international defense contracts and transitions from development to high-rate production.

The company recently announced an undisclosed investment from ONE Bow River National Defense Fund, a Colorado Springs private equity firm focused on technologies that strengthen national defense. The strategic investment will help PteroDynamics scale production of its autonomous vertical takeoff and landing (VTOL) unmanned aircraft systems and accelerate development of its next generation of aircraft.

For PteroDynamics CEO Matthew Graczyk, the investment represents more than an infusion of capital. “We’re at an exciting inflection point,” Graczyk says. “The Transwing’s unique performance capabilities and compelling multi-mission flexibility are attracting increasing interest from defense and commercial operators in the U.S. and around the world.”

The company’s aircraft are built around its patented folding-wing Transwing® technology. Unlike conventional drones or helicopters, the Transwing can seamlessly transition between vertical takeoff and landing and fixed-wing horizontal flight, allowing it to combine the flexibility of a helicopter with the speed, endurance and efficiency of an airplane and is optimized for maritime logistics and cargo operations.

“The goal of our company is to have the best performing aircraft that flies faster, longer, carrying heavier payloads and using less energy,” Graczyk says. “You get the benefits of vertical takeoff and landing without sacrificing the

efficiency of winged flight.”

The investment from ONE Bow River is expected to accelerate the company’s transition from prototype development to serial production. “We primarily want to invest in the production and manufacturing capability of the company,” says Colin Haas, director at ONE Bow River. “Simply put, we want the company to produce more aircraft, more efficiently and in a repeatable manner.”

Haas said PteroDynamics’ patented technology, strong intellectual property portfolio and growing customer base made it an attractive investment. “We saw the use cases both within the government and military, but also commercial use cases and said to ourselves, ‘We need

to invest in this technology and invest in this team,’” he says.

The company is already preparing for that growth by moving more manufacturing operations in-house. Rather than outsourcing airframe fabrication, PteroDynamics is bringing carbon fiber layup, advanced 3D printing and prototype production under its own roof, allowing engineers to rapidly iterate designs and increase production capacity.

The expansion is expected to significantly increase the company’s workforce. PteroDynamics currently employs 17 people but expects to grow to approximately 130 employees over the next two years, adding positions in engineering, flight operations, business development and manufacturing.



Photo credit: Kristian Bogner - PteroDynamics

Increasing international demand is partly fueling that growth. In May, PteroDynamics announced that the Royal Australian Navy had awarded the company a contract to provide P4 Transwing aircraft, training and technical support for autonomous maritime logistics operations. The agreement marks PteroDynamics’ first international defense sale and includes an option for Australia to purchase the larger P5 aircraft beginning in 2027.

The contract follows successful demonstrations for the Australian Defense Force and Royal Australian Navy, where the aircraft showcased its endurance, speed and ability to transport cargo over land and water while operating from confined spaces.

“With the growing strategic importance of the Indo-Pacific region and the trilateral AUKUS [Australia, the United Kingdom and the United States] security partnership, Australia

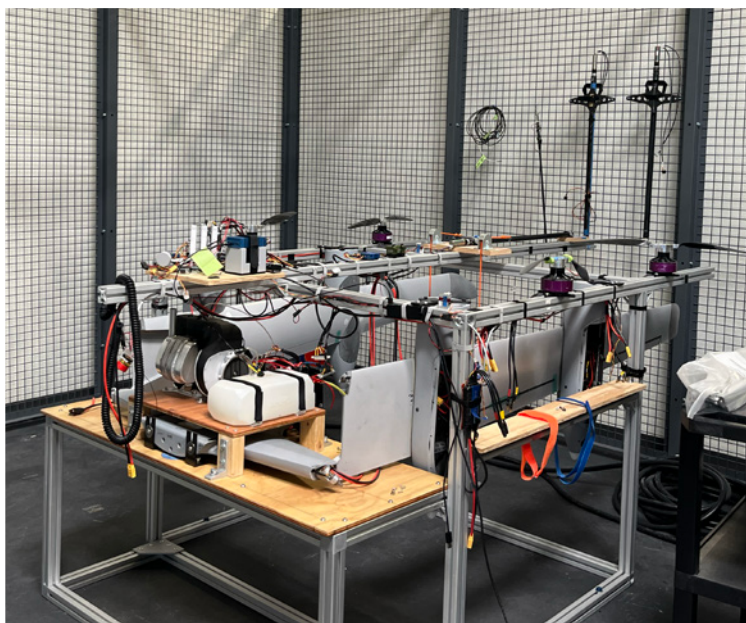


Photo credit: Tiffany Lancaster

and the Royal Australian Navy have established a forward-looking vision for the role of autonomous uncrewed platforms for logistics missions in maritime environments,” Graczyk says.

PteroDynamics’ work with Australia adds to an expanding list of defense and government partnerships that includes the U.S. Navy, the U.S. Air Force, previous projects with the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) and demonstrations for customers in the United Kingdom.

Despite that momentum, company leaders say they are intentionally focused on markets where the economics and mission needs are clear.

“We don’t chase consumer drone delivery or air taxis,” Graczyk says. “We focus on

missions that are high-value, time-sensitive and hard to reach.”

For both PteroDynamics and its investors, the future is about more than building aircraft.

“There has been a concerted effort over the last several years to increase the level of technology available to the warfighter,” Haas says. “Recent conflicts have shown that modern warfare is changing rapidly, and companies like PteroDynamics are developing technologies that can help meet those evolving needs.” 



Tiffany Lancaster is a staff writer for the SoCo Business Forum & Digest.



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