

For Immediate Release

Viking Offers Ideas at Sea's Wide Area Optical Radar Payload as Optional Equipment for Twin Otter Guardian 400

Victoria, British Columbia, December 11, 2019: Announced during a World Demonstration Tour, Viking Air Limited of Victoria, British Columbia is now offering Ideas at Sea's wide area optical radar payload as optional equipment on its Twin Otter Guardian 400 special mission aircraft. Viking and Ideas at Sea will immediately commence sensor integration with a view to presenting their optical radar options to customers in early 2020.

Ideas at Sea will be working with Viking's integrator and principal tour partner, Airborne Technologies of Austria, to house the Visual Detection and Ranging (ViDAR) payload and create day/night 180-degree wide area surveillance options for operators of Viking's Guardian 400.

The ViDAR software system, supplied by Sentient Vision Systems, is a wide area optical search system consisting of high-resolution sensors coupled with onboard automation software capable of detecting small objects over significant areas, allowing operators to map vast swaths of ocean in real time and dramatically extend aircraft coverage during Search & Rescue missions.

ViDAR works autonomously to find objects on the water's surface and send a thumbnail image and location coordinates back to the Guardian's CarteNav AIMS mission system. The AIMS mission system software then processes the imagery and data from the sensors to enhance situational awareness and provide geo-referenced local operating pictures that enable the operator to initiate a slew to the object with the Hensoldt Argos EO/IR imaging turret.

Ideas at Sea offers a range of configurable integrated optical radar solutions that are tailored to specific mission requirements that customers can select from, without the additional costs associated with customizations. This provides economical semi-custom mission options while also significantly reducing ongoing sustainment and maintenance costs.

"Viking's Guardian 400 is the perfect platform for our Optical Radar solutions, and we are committed to providing cost-effective, best-in-class capability to the aircraft's operators," said David Willems, Founder and Chairman of Ideas at Sea. "We are looking forward to extending the capability of the ViDAR system already installed on the Guardian 400 demonstrator aircraft to include a more modular payload to better meet the wide-ranging needs of special mission operators."

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VERSATILITY THAT WORKS

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VIKING is the manufacturer of
the Twin Otter Series 400 aircraft,
and provides complete support
for the de Havilland legacy fleet.





“The Guardian 400 has a unique set of performance capabilities and provides incredible versatility to its customers,” said Peter Walker, Viking’s Global Sales Director for Special Mission Aircraft. “Ideas at Sea provides an additional complement to our existing partners through the modular configuration options their optical payload can provide, and we’re excited to be able to offer these new, world-leading capabilities to our customers.”

The Guardian 400, a special mission variant of the Viking Series 400 Twin Otter, features robust design and exceptional performance capabilities perfectly suited for specialized operations in extreme environments, including ISR, maritime surveillance, SAR, parachute, medevac, and critical infrastructure support. Its unique operational flexibility in multiple mission profiles combined with its low acquisition and operating costs offers true force-multiplying economy.

Viking’s Guardian 400 demonstrator aircraft is currently undergoing a nine-month World Demonstration Tour that includes detailed briefings and demonstration flights in Europe, Africa, the Middle East, India, Southeast Asia, Oceania and North America. The Guardian 400 demonstrator aircraft will also be available for public viewing and demonstrations at the 2020 Singapore Airshow in February and the 2020 CANSEC Canadian Defence & Security Show in Ottawa during May. For more information on the World Tour, visit www.guardian400worldtour.com.

About the Guardian 400 Twin Otter:

Viking developed the Guardian 400 in response to foreign military and government agency demand for a modern, reliable medium-range maritime patrol, SAR and critical infrastructure platform based on the new Twin Otter Series 400 aircraft. Designed as an economical force multiplier for 21st century surveillance and security requirements, the Guardian 400’s low acquisition and operating costs combined with its modern, flexible architecture allows it to be customized to suit operators’ financial and mission requirements.

The Guardian 400’s robust design, minimal maintenance requirements, and exceptional short-field performance capabilities make it ideally suited for specialized government operations in extreme environments. Certified under the restricted category, the Guardian 400’s increased take-off weight and optional ultra-long range fuel configurations allows for operational sorties over 10 hours in duration.

Trusted by the governments of Argentina, Guatemala, Peru, Panama, the United States, United Arab Emirates, Thailand and Vietnam, over thirty Twin Otter Guardian 400 aircraft have now entered service in various roles, including law enforcement, special operations command, maritime surveillance, search & rescue, civil patrol, parachute operations, pipeline monitoring, drug enforcement, medevac, and critical infrastructure support.

About Ideas at Sea:

Ideas at Sea is a specialized company that provides unique capabilities using unmanned platforms and sensors that support police, government agencies, Defence forces, the yachting industry, the scientific industry, maritime safety, and environmental agencies. Ideas at Sea focuses on customer requirements and combines the best proven technologies to efficiently perform the desired mission(s) through a team of carefully selected professionals with demonstrated experience providing project management and customer service.

**About Viking Air Limited:**

Headquartered in Victoria, BC, Viking is the global leader in utility aircraft services, and the manufacturer of the world-renowned Series 400 Twin Otter. Viking is the Original Type Certificate holder for all out-of-production de Havilland aircraft, DHC-1 through the DHC-7, and provides exclusive spare parts manufacturing and product support for the legacy de Havilland fleet. In 2007 Viking launched the Twin Otter Series 400 production program, and to date new Viking aircraft have sold to over 32 countries worldwide. In 2016, Viking acquired the Type Certificates (manufacturing rights) for the Canadair CL-215, CL-215T, and CL-415 aircraft. With this transfer, Viking assumed responsibility for all product support for the global fleet of 170 aerial firefighters.

Viking is managed by Longview Aviation Capital Corp. (LAC), established in 2016 to manage a portfolio of long-term investments in the Canadian aerospace industry. LAC includes the assets of Viking Air Limited; De Havilland Aircraft of Canada Limited (owner of the entire Dash 8 program including the Series 100, 200, 300 and in-production 400 program); Longview Aviation Training, Longview Aviation Asset Management; and Longview Aviation Services.

Longview, through its subsidiaries, holds the Type Certificates for the entire product line of the original de Havilland Canada Aircraft Company, and together these companies continue to make strides in modernizing versatile, fuel efficient and environmentally responsible turboprop aircraft for use by operators all around the world. Longview has a workforce of approximately 2,200 full-time employees in manufacturing and aircraft service support in locations across Canada, including Victoria, Calgary, and Toronto.

For additional information, please visit www.vikingair.com or www.lvav.ca.

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