

## News

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# Singapore Airshow: ST Electronics takes aim at renegade UAVs

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**There is growing concern in many parts of the world about the proliferation of UAVs that can cause not only a public nuisance, but also a threat to public safety and security. This is especially so in the often unlicensed realm of hobbyist UAVs.**

As one solution, ST Electronics exhibited what it called the Sky Archer Counter Micro-UAV System at the Singapore Airshow. It could be used by law enforcement or homeland security agencies to protect a specific venue where UAVs are not permitted, for example.

The company highlighted the protection of key installations, aviation safety, public security, border surveillance and anti-contraband as potential applications for its new creation.

One ST Electronics representative said the Sky Archer was 'recently operationalised' when tested for specific-use cases, even though it remains in the trials stage.

The Sky Archer uses a single (or multiple) visual detection module and an electronic jammer to detect and disable UAVs attempting to enter a closed airspace.

ST Electronics listed the following rules-based engagement procedure: all-round visual detection of objects; classification and tracking of targets; and electronic disabling of any target.

The system jams radio frequencies and thus disables any micro-UAV attempting to enter a restricted zone. It does so within a prescribed safety perimeter before a UAV can approach too close to that zone.

A spokesman said the Sky Archer is scalable according to customer requirements, and a simple system could be made ready for a customer very quickly if ordered. Open architecture allows different sensors (e.g. those already owned by a client) to be integrated into the Sky Archer.

By networking separate devices, larger areas can be protected. The system's detection range is currently about 1km, although environmental conditions can affect its performance.

Currently the Sky Archer can detect UAVs ranging in size from 350mm upwards.