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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

VerdeGo Aero Secures Air Force Contract to Advance Turbine Hybrid-Electric Powerplant

DAYTONA BEACH, FL - VerdeGo Aero announces it has been selected by AFWERX for a Phase II Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) contract in the amount of \$1.24M focused on the VH-4T-RD turbine hybrid-electric powerplant to address the most pressing challenges in the Department of the Air Force (DAF). The Air Force Research Laboratory and AFWERX have partnered to streamline the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) process by accelerating the small business experience through faster proposal to award timelines, changing the pool of potential applicants by expanding opportunities to small business and eliminating bureaucratic overhead by continually implementing process improvement changes in contract execution. The DAF began offering the Open Topic SBIR/STTR program in 2018 which expanded the range of innovations the DAF funded and now on February 9, 2024, VerdeGo Aero will start its journey to create and provide innovative capabilities that will strengthen the national defense of the United States of America.

“VerdeGo Aero is excited to partner with AFWERX to accelerate this important capability for the US Air Force,” said David Eichstedt, Vice President of Product Management at VerdeGo Aero. “The high power density of the VH-4T will provide the performance needed to deliver the range, speed, and payload required to make the next generation of electric aircraft compelling and practical.”

Built around an existing helicopter turboshaft engine, the VH-4T-RD will generate 380 kW of electricity to power lift and propulsion motors or onboard electronic payloads. VerdeGo is currently constructing the first prototype with testing scheduled to begin in May 2024. A future production version is expected to produce 415 kW.

“The goal is that at the end of this effort the VH-4T-RD will have demonstrated its suitability for flight testing in experimental, unmanned applications,” said Dave Spitzer, VerdeGo’s Vice President of Product Development. “Hybrid-electric power is really a requirement for military-focused electric Vertical TakeOff and Landing (eVTOL) aircraft since military missions typically involve round trips. Batteries alone can’t provide the necessary range, especially since charging infrastructure doesn’t exist in remote locations where charging infrastructure is lacking.”

The views expressed are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of the Department of the Air Force, the Department of Defense, or the U.S. government.

ABOUT VERDEGO AERO

VerdeGo Aero™, a frontrunner in the electric aviation industry, is committed to revolutionizing aerospace technologies with cutting-edge propulsion solutions. Since its establishment in 2017, VerdeGo has consistently led the field, specializing in advanced hybrid-electric and battery-electric propulsion technologies. VerdeGo Aero’s collaborative approach with aircraft developers, coupled with proprietary analysis tools, accelerates the conceptual design phase, and positions the company as a key

partner in the industry. VerdeGo Aero is based at the Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University Research Park in Daytona Beach, FL. For more information, visit: verdegoaero.com

About AFRL

The Air Force Research Laboratory is the primary scientific research and development center for the Department of the Air Force. AFRL plays an integral role in leading the discovery, development, and integration of affordable warfighting technologies for our air, space and cyberspace force. With a workforce of more than 12,500 across nine technology areas and 40 other operations across the globe, AFRL provides a diverse portfolio of science and technology ranging from fundamental to advanced research and technology development. For more information, visit www.afresearchlab.com.

About AFWERX

As the innovation arm of the DAF and a directorate within the Air Force Research Laboratory, AFWERX brings cutting-edge American ingenuity from small businesses and start-ups to address the most pressing challenges of the DAF. AFWERX employs approximately 370 military, civilian and contractor personnel at five hubs and sites executing an annual \$1.4 billion budget. Since 2019, AFWERX has executed 6,028 new contracts worth more than \$4 billion to strengthen the U.S. defense industrial base and drive faster technology transition to operational capability. For more information, visit: www.afwerx.com.

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