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The sky's no longer the limit, using Altium

Altium supports Rutgers University student team in developing unmanned aerial systems

SYDNEY, Australia – June 1, 2009 – Altium is providing software worth nearly US\$100,000 to the Rutgers University robotics club, which will use Altium's next generation electronics design solution to design and manufacture a complete unmanned aerial system (UAS).

The vehicle will feature in the UAS competition run by the Association for Unmanned Vehicle Systems International (AUVSI). The national competition requires university students to demonstrate the flight capabilities of an unmanned, electric powered, radio controlled aircraft they design and build. Entries are judged on design and ability to meet a range of mission objectives. The five-day event will be held at the Webster Field, St. Inigoes, Maryland, June 17-21, 2009.

The Rutgers team will use Altium's design solution to develop complex navigational controls, and the entire aerial sensing system and flight platform. A flight stabilization and control system, autopilot, and GPS navigation system will let the vehicle takeoff and land without human intervention, mimicking a military spy plane. It will search the arena and relay real-time video back to an operator who will identify the locations of mission targets.

“We would never been able to build such a complex circuit board without Altium’s generous donation. Altium Designer’s user-friendly interface allowed us to teach our team how to design PCBs quickly and easily. The team became so efficient with Altium Designer, we were able to install our boards as we were designing the plane,” said Adam Stambler, circuit board team leader of the Rutgers UAS team.

The latest release of Altium Designer exploits advances in technology that makes getting a product to manufacture faster and easier. A Plug-n-Play software builder helps designers quickly snap together systems and reuse a standard set of services. And a field dashboard helps designers overcome some of the challenges of testing or remotely monitoring designs inside FPGAs.

Altium has also extended Altium Designer’s real-time 3D PCB features with faster real-time 3D design performance. The latest release improves the memory and speed of the 3D PCB graphics system – by up to seven times.

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About Altium

Altium Limited (ASX:ALU) provides next-generation electronics design solutions that break down the barriers to innovation. Altium’s solutions are unique because they unify the separate processes of electronics design. This holistic approach lets electronics designers consider the need of the end user ahead of any design decision, and then harness the latest devices and technologies, manage their projects across broad design ‘ecosystems’, and create connected, intelligent designs, all in a single application.

Founded in 1985, Altium has headquarters in Sydney, sales offices in the United States, Europe, China, and resellers in all other major markets. For more information, visit www.altium.com.

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