



UMS SKELDAR ANNOUNCES ACQUISITION OF GERMAN GLOBAL ENGINE MANUFACTURER HIRTH

UMS SKELDAR consolidates position as UAV technology innovator with acquisition of aviation pioneer Hirth

1st May 2018: MÖHLIN, Switzerland: [Immediate Release.] UMS SKELDAR, the world-class provider of rotary Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) solutions and avionics software, has announced the acquisition of Hirthmotoren GmbH & Co. KG (Hirth Motors), the German-based specialist global engine manufacturer for air, water and land applications.

The announcement provides UMS SKELDAR with its own engine manufacturing capability and at the same time a premium list of world-leading customers including, RUAG, Switzerland; EMT, Fresh-Breeze, PF Pumpen and Ziegler GmbH Firefighting Equipment, Germany; MartinUAV and Recreational Power Engineering, US; Denel, South Africa; TMI K.Toivanen, Finland; China Hovercraft Company, China.

As a market leader in innovative 2-stroke engine products and technologies, the Hirth business includes research, development and manufacturing from its site at Benningen, near Stuttgart, Germany with global sales co-ordinated from Vienna, Austria.

Hirth has manufactured and sold more than one million engines since it was established and has been a pioneer of the 2-stroke engine for 60 years, with a track record of 30 years in the UAV sector.

Additionally, Hirth has earned a reputation for innovation across a range of UAV engine classes and specifications, including development of advanced technology to create consumer off the shelf (COTS) propulsion systems to meet the demanding requirements of the unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) market. The partnership between UMS SKELDAR and Hirth has also enabled the flagship SKELDAR V-200 rotary UAV, to pioneer dependable heavy fuel engines, the first in its class to meet NATO's one-fuel policy to eliminate gasoline for safety and logistics reasons.

According to Axel Cavalli-Bjorkman, CEO of UMS SKELDAR: "We are pleased to have brought this acquisition to completion and are excited to add Hirth's research and innovation talent to our team. This acquisition provides us with the opportunity to gain world-class experience in the highly competitive aerospace sector focused on the UAV market. It is a logical extension of our strategy to further develop our leading position as a pioneer of the heavy fuel engine at the heart of our rotary UAV VTOL platforms.

"We remain absolutely committed to all Hirth customers, who will continue to receive professional support from one of the most respected engine manufacturers in the various classes, markets and applications served."

Hirth Motors is a privately held company that has been producing 2-stroke engines in Germany since 1917. Their products are used in a number of applications including: ultra-lights, powered parachutes, gyrocopters, hovercraft, water pumps, APUs, and UAVs. Hirth is currently flying on several high-end global UAV platforms and has been advancing its engine technology to improve performance and reliability for the UAV market.

For more information on UMS SKELDAR, including its world leading platforms, click on <http://umsskeldar.aero/>.

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This release has been issued on behalf of UMS SKELDAR by Kredo Consulting Ltd. For further information please contact Philip Hicks on phil@kredoconsulting.com or +44 (0) 7467 510339 or Andy Parker on andy@kredoconsulting.com or +44 (0) 7860 833036.

About UMS SKELDAR

UMS SKELDAR, a joint venture between Saab and UMS AERO Group, is Europe's leading provider of Rotary Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) platforms including the unmatched NATO-compliant rotary SKELDAR V-200 and the ITAR-free light-tactical R-350. Incorporating the Sentient Vision Systems ViDAR (Visual identification Detection and Ranging) payload into its vertical take-off & landing (VTOL) fleet, UMS SKELDAR is engaged in a highly active research and development programme, and provides solutions to a wide variety of defence, civil security and maritime sectors globally. The company is headquartered near Basel in Switzerland, with twin manufacturing facilities in Switzerland (Möhlín) and Sweden (Linköping) and offers a comprehensive unmanned aerial systems (UAS) solutions portfolio. The company provides a total solutions capability globally, including development, manufacture, testing, training, consultancy, maintenance, managed services and finance options (incorporating purchase/leasing and lease purchase).

Find out more about UMS SKELDAR: www.umsskeldar.aero

About Hirth

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Find out more about Hirth: www.hirth-engines.de