



StopRotor Unmanned Aerial Systems Press Release

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STOPROTOR MASSCHALLENGE AUSTRALIA WINNER

Global accelerator MassChallenge has named StopRotor Unmanned Aerial Systems in its top five highest-impact, highest-potential startups in the final round of its Bridge to MassChallenge Australia competition.

The five finalists will go on to take part in the MassChallenge accelerator program in Boston, Israel, the United Kingdom, Switzerland or Mexico, where the highest-impact startups can earn equity-free cash rewards from a prize pool worth several million dollars.

Founder and Managing Director Deanne Watkins spent the last 11 days in Boston, enjoying the dynamic Boston environment including, in complete contrast to the local heatwave, a blizzard. She said, "The MassChallenge experience has helped to shape our company's direction and provided direct industry contacts from their global network. The schedule included one on one mentoring, a range of active sessions on business development, marketing, strategy, industry support, team building and of course pitch development and delivery with globally recognised leaders and innovators."

"The final competition was a 15 min pitch to Boston industry leaders."

"One big takeaway was the culture of support, especially through direct introductions to industry contacts; How can I help, who can I introduce you to, was a reoccurring theme that really helps open doors quickly," Mrs Watkins said.

"From developing business plans to cultivating mentors, all of the Bridge to MassChallenge Australia startups have made incredible progress during the course of the program," said Mike LaRhette, President of MassChallenge. "We look forward to continuing to build relationships with the Australian innovation community."

Our sincere thanks go out to event sponsors Microsoft, Australian Government Department of Industry, Innovation and Science, Jobs for NSW, Urban Growth NSW, Government of South Australia and Monash University. My hope is that Australia embraces this opportunity with MassChallenge to become a long term partner. You only have to look at the start-up culture and key metrics they have generated to know that innovation is the heart of an evolving economy. MassChallenge makes that happen.

About StopRotor

With a novel UAV platform that enables VTOL plus extended flight time we can provide a new solution for large scale, data acquisition suited to commercial and civil operations. Precision agriculture, mapping,

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environmental management and search functions in remote locations are some target areas we can offer a valuable service.

Current prototypes are undergoing flight testing as part of a collaborative research grant with RMIT: Aerospace Research Centre to validate the performance model of the aircraft. RMIT will also be presenting StopRotor as a new VTOL aircraft configuration at the 17th Australian International Aerospace Congress in Melbourne late February 2017.

We plan to operate our current aircraft for a group of commercial customers and then feed user information into final product development prior to commencing manufacturing within 3 years. Interested companies are welcome to contact us directly for inclusion into this operational phase.

The company is now preparing for the Avalon Airshow 2017 with a static aircraft display after being selected to present at the Innovation Showcase.

Patents on the aircraft design and method of operation are now granted in Australia, allowed in US and China and pending in New Zealand and Europe.

Managing Director Deanne Watkins said "The Defence Science Institute and RMIT's Prof Roberto Sabatini were early supporters of our fledgling technology in the giant domain of global aerospace. Their support has been invaluable, assisting industry engagement and providing valid data to meet scientific requirements.

Unmanned Aerial Systems Pty Ltd is taking on the challenge of building the world's first operational StopRotor aircraft.

We are focused on the development of a 20kg MTOW UAS platform combining VTOL helicopter performance with long range, long endurance fixed wing capabilities for civil, government and military markets. This aircraft will serve as the prototype for larger aircraft.

Head office is based on the Central Coast, NSW, with a Melbourne office in Diamond Creek, Victoria.

MassChallenge is the most startup-friendly accelerator on the planet. No equity and not-for-profit, we are obsessed with helping entrepreneurs across any industry. We also reward the highest-impact startups through a competition to win a portion of several million dollars in equity-free cash awards. Through our global network of accelerators in Boston, the UK, Israel, Switzerland, and Mexico, and unrivaled access to our corporate partners, we can have a massive impact – driving growth and creating value the world over. To date, 1,211 MassChallenge alumni have raised over \$1.8 billion in funding, generated over \$700 million in revenue, and created over 60,000 direct and indirect jobs. For more information, please visit masschallenge.org.

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