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LIGHTHOUSE DEV LLC and FlexEI to prove to NAVY that UAVs can stay aloft indefinitely with ground based power

College Park, MD, October 5, 2010 - Two Maryland based companies will join together to demonstrate that eye-safe, non-hazardous laser power can keep the NAVY's growing fleet of UAVs (unmanned aerial vehicles) in the air indefinitely. This will be accomplished by a proprietary system consisting of a Dilas 1550 nm laser, an optics system, a solar array and paper thin batteries. The proof of concept demonstration will take place at the University of Maryland on October 22th (3PM) across the rooftops of two engineering school buildings.

Trevor Stone, Principal of Lighthouse says, "Our goal is to deliver ground based power to extend UAV missions. I know this capability is something that the NAVY has increasing interest in."

During the demonstration, a laser will be used to beam power from the rooftop of one building to a TPV (Thermal Photovoltaic) array and a lightweight fast charging battery system on the rooftop of another building that is approximately 150 yards away. The battery system will provide power to a model airplane motor while being recharged by the laser, hence demonstrating a power transfer system that can be repeated indefinitely.

FlexEI, a University of Maryland incubator company, has developed thin rechargeable flexible batteries that have the highest nominal capacity per unit area of any other lithium battery. FlexEI intends to wrap these batteries around the body panels of UAVs to provide them with power. For more information on this company, please visit www.flexelinc.com.

Lighthouse, is a company specializing in free space power transmission systems. Their focus is to embed thin TPV cells in the wings of UAVs and laser power them from the ground. For more information on this company, please visit www.lhdev.com.

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