

MEDIA RELEASE

FRIDAY 12 SEPTEMBER 2014

Sydney Town Hall, Sydney Australia, 10 September 2014:

One Atmosphere announced as winner of the 2014 Defence Science & Technology Organisation Eureka Prize for Outstanding Science in Safeguarding Australia for its Pegasus helicopter emergency buoyancy system.



Assistant Minister for Defence, Hon. Stuart Robert and Tim Lyons, Managing Director of One Atmosphere with the Eureka Prize (Photo: Mark Metcalfe/Getty Images, Australian Museum Eureka Prizes)

One Atmosphere was delighted to be announced winner of the Defence Science & Technology Organisation Eureka Prize for Outstanding Science in Safeguarding Australia. Pegasus, the company's leading innovation in a family of new buoyancy and survival technology, was selected for the prestigious award.

The Pegasus emergency buoyancy system is designed to keep helicopters at the surface after a crash or a controlled ditch into water. The system, which rapidly puts Archimedes' principle on displacement and buoyancy into action, activates autonomously to arrest a sinking aircraft, transforming it from negative to positively buoyant within seconds. The system employs innovative gas generation technology to provide sufficient and specifically placed buoyancy to keep helicopters afloat after impacting with water. The Pegasus ensures the helicopter will rise and float in a favourable orientation, enabling occupants to more easily and safely egress from the aircraft, increasing survivability for those on-board.

The Pegasus system and technology was considerably advanced under a Defence Science & Technology Organisation (DSTO) Capability Technology Demonstrator (CTD) program completed in 2013. Pegasus will be further developed under the new Defence Innovation Realisation Fund (DIRF) announced by the Minister for Defence, Senator the Hon. David Johnston, at the Defence and Industry conference held on 29 July 2014.

Mr Lyons said “Being passionate about safety, science, innovation and Defence capability, it is an honour to be presented with this highly prestigious award. I would like to thank the Australian Nation Museum for coordinating an amazing event and for supporting Australia’s science community. I would also like to thank my team and all those who have been involved in the Pegasus project. This Award is acknowledgement for the tireless hard work and the enormous contribution many have made to One Atmosphere and the Pegasus project. Importantly, I would like to acknowledge the brilliant work and enduring support I have received from the ADF and DSTO. It was an honour to receive this award from the Assistant Minister for Defence, the Hon. Stuart Robert and to have Dr Alex Zelinsky, Chief Defence Scientist, Head of DSTO, present on the night. I thank you both for the support you have given from what I believe are two of Australia’s most outstanding organisations. Finally, I am proud to be using science in the development of critical survival technology for the men and women of the Australian Defence Force.”

Pegasus is also a finalist in the WA Innovator of the Year Awards.

Also see Defence Media Release:

<http://www.minister.defence.gov.au/2014/09/10/helicopter-safety-system-wins-dsto-eureka-prize/>

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