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CASA approves new Spookfish camera pod

Highlights

- CASA approves next generation Spookfish camera pod for commercial operations
- Australia/US Bilateral Aviation Safety Agreement being used to obtain U.S. FAA approval
- Authorisation from CASA for in-house design approval of camera system installation
- First mature commercial camera system being added to STC

Spookfish Limited (“Spookfish” or the “Company”) (ASX: SFI) is pleased to announce that the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (“CASA”) has approved the first Supplemental Type Certificate (“STC”) covering the aerodynamics and structural modifications to the aircraft, a major company milestone for large scale commercial operations in both Australia and North America.

This STC provides Spookfish the ability to install various sensors, lenses and processing equipment into the camera pod. As new versions of the camera system are developed they can be installed into the pod allowing continual product improvements to cater for ongoing developments of new sensors, optics equipment and control and data storage systems.

This has been a swift approval project with the STC issued only 11 months from commencement of the system design; a very short design, manufacture and certification timeframe for such a significant and complex project. The sophisticated nature of the product and the substantial structural and aerodynamic changes to the aircraft required a comprehensive analysis and flight test programme to demonstrate compliance with the applicable design requirements.

The Australian/U.S. Bilateral Aviation Safety Agreement (“BASA”) process for acceptance by the U.S. Federal Aviation Authority (“FAA”) of an Australian STC has been implemented as part of this certification programme. The process for obtaining FAA acceptance is well underway and the FAA project manager has had oversight of the Australian certification programme since commencement in June of last year.

The specific camera systems installed into the pod are approved under an Authorisation from CASA held in-house by Spookfish representatives. This approval allows the aircraft to operate commercially in Australia. This approval data is also used as the basis for a similar US approval of the camera system installation in that jurisdiction once the FAA acceptance of the Australian STC is obtained. As each camera system iteration matures it can be easily incorporated into the STC; the first such addition is now underway.

The ability for Spookfish to design, certify, manufacture, operate commercially with its own aircraft and maintain complex camera systems is a unique and tremendously valuable capability. This allows system configuration updates and new camera designs to enter service for trials or commercial operations much more rapidly than more conventional aerial imagery organisations.



Internal control of the survey aircraft fleet operating under a CASA Air Operator’s Certificate (“AOC”) is an immensely valuable asset of Spookfish; allowing the company to respond rapidly to new growth opportunities both in Australia and abroad.

Commenting on the significant milestone, Spookfish Executive Chairman Jason Marinko said, “The granting of the STC by CASA for such a sophisticated project in less than 12 months is a significant achievement and wouldn’t have been possible without the unique in-house skill base at Spookfish. We now look forward to rolling the system out at scale in Australia and North America.”

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About Spookfish

Spookfish Limited (ASX: SFI) is an Australian listed public company focused on the development and commercialisation of premium next generation geospatial imagery products and services. By starting from a clean sheet and disregarding what was thought impossible, Spookfish’s revolutionary technology enables rapid imaging of entire countries in high resolution from a multitude of angles at a fraction of the cost of contemporary systems. Spookfish aims to use these capabilities to make it easy for organisations of all sizes to gain access to premium imagery content and pervasive 3D models allowing concise, accurate and cost effective decision-making.

In May 2016, Spookfish entered into long term exclusive licence, royalty and equity participation agreements with EagleView Technologies Inc, a North American leader in aerial imagery, data analytics and GIS solutions, to use Spookfish technology in North America.