

STORY: FA AAD YOGE PATEL

STORY OVERVIEW

The African Aerospace and Defence Expo, Africa's largest such expo, is not only a place where the big, established guns are coming to do business and find possible partners. Various small businesses are also using the expo in South Africa as a springboard to enter the African defence and security market. One such entrepreneur is Britain's Dr Yoge Patel and her Blue Bear Systems Research. Blue Bear Systems Research develops and manufactures multi-purpose unmanned aerospace and marine systems. According to Dr Patel, Blue Bear is the oldest UAV company in the UK and it enjoys a very good reputation with the UK Civil Aviation Authority. She nevertheless acknowledges that the harsh African environment will be a challenge for their vehicles, but her company is known for creating solutions.

Duration: 6:54

Shot list

Wide MS zoom (Courtesy Blue Bear Systems Research (BBSR)): Man tosses (launches) Blackstart fixed wing unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) into the air

Mid WS tracking (Courtesy BBSR): Blackstart fixed wing UAV in flight

WS pan left to right: United Kingdom Trade and Investment Defence and Security Organisation's stand (UKTI DSO) at African Aerospace and Defence 2014 (AAD 2014) at Waterkloof Airforce Base, Pretoria, South Africa

Wide MS: BBSR's RedKite fixed wing UAV (top) and iSTART fixed wing UAV (bottom) at BBSR booth on the UKTI DSO stand at AAD 2014

MS tilt down: Poster against the back of BBSR's booth on the UKTI DSO stand at AAD 2014

Mid WS: Dr Yoge Patel explaining the iSTART UAV to an interested expo attendee on the UKTI DSO stand at AAD 2014

Wide MS: Dr Yoge Patel explaining the iSTART UAV to an interested expo attendee on the UKTI DSO stand at AAD 2014

Wide MS O/S: Dr Yoge Patel explain to an interested expo attendee what her company does using a presentation shown on a laptop

CU: Laptop screen showing presentation of BBSR's products and technology

UPSOUND: DR YOGE PATEL: CEO: BLUE BEAR SYSTEMS RESEARCH

"This is my first time in Africa and I have to say I am utterly delighted to be here. Not least because the people here are so receptive to the idea of working with the British."

Wide MS: Dr Patel shows and explains the iSTART UAV to an interested expo attendee

Wide MS O/S: Dr Patel shows and explains the iSTART UAV to an interested expo attendee

Mid WS: Dr Patel shows and explains about her company and technology to interested expo attendees

Mid WS zoom in (Courtesy BBSR): Man assembling iSTART UAV on ground

Wide MS (Courtesy BBSR): Man assembling iSTART UAV

Wide MS (Courtesy BBSR): Man with backpack holding iSTART UAV in one hand, programs or tasks UAV on laptop, using NEXUS Ground Control System (GCS), with other hand

Mid WS tracking (Courtesy BBSR): Man with backpack tosses (launches) iSTART UAV into the air

Wide MS (Courtesy BBSR): Man with backpack programs or tasks iSTART UAV on laptop, using NEXUS Ground Control System (GCS)

MS O/S (Courtesy BBSR): Man follows iSTART UAV on laptop, using NEXUS Ground Control System (GCS)

CU O/S (Courtesy BBSR): Computer screen indicating position of iSTART UAV

Mid WS tracking (Courtesy BBSR): Unmanned marine vehicle cruising on the water

UPSOUND: DR YOGE PATEL: CEO: BLUE BEAR SYSTEMS RESEARCH

“Blue Bear, the company, provides unmanned air platforms and unmanned maritime platforms for security and defence applications. So for example, we have here a handheld device that you can put into a bag. Very mobile. Everything you need is backpacked. You take the vehicle out, toss it into the air, walk to your ground control station and task it to look here, land there. There’s no operator workload. It is all about executing commission. We have a variety of platforms. This is one. We work from everything from this small, to the very large airships that are the size of football fields and operate at 65 000 field (feet). We do also look at unmanned maritime.”

MS tracking (Courtesy BBSR): Rotary UAV taking off

Wide MS aerial (Courtesy BBSR): Chimney as seen with camera mounted on the rotary UAV

Mid WS (Courtesy BBSR): Rotary UAV in flight next to chimney

Wide MS aerial (Courtesy BBSR): Top of chimney as seen with camera mounted on the rotary UAV

Mid WS (Courtesy BBSR): Rotary UAV in flight above chimney

CU (Courtesy BBSR): Monitor used to monitor the video image or feed received from camera mounted on the rotary UAV

Wide MS tilt down (Courtesy BBSR): Rotary UAV landing

MS O/S: Dr Patel looking operating laptop, showing some of the capabilities of BBSR's equipment on UKTI stand at AAD 2014

Wide MS: Dr Patel putting down laptop

UPSOUND: DR YOGE PATEL: CEO: BLUE BEAR SYSTEMS RESEARCH

"Blue Bear has been looking at what we call "operations in complex environments" for a little while. And complex means that you may have no access to GPS, you comms links may be very hard to operate - both congested and contested – urban environments, environments where there is no networking of communications. We as a company have been looking at solutions that are appropriate for the last 10 years. And in the UK (United Kingdom) we are renown for being able to operate in those environments. We are for example the only company that have flown in GPS denied environments in Wales, in the UK, almost 30 flight trails. That is quite an accolade."

CU (Courtesy BBSR): Computer screen with computer generated image of and area over which UAV is flying and surveying

UPSOUND: DR YOGE PATEL: CEO: BLUE BEAR SYSTEMS RESEARCH

"Blue Bear has decided to look at South Africa and Africa in general as a market, because we see that Africa has an appetite. It has an appetite for unmanned vehicles, but it also has a need in term of its security and policing. There are barriers to entry in this market and one of those is safety and regulation. Now, Blue Bear, the company in the UK, enjoys a very good reputation with the civil aviation authority."

Mid WS pan left to right: Dr Patel talking to interested attendees at AAD at UKTI stand

Wide MS: Dr Patel listens interested attendee at AAD at UKTI stand

CU: Screen of Dr Patel's laptop with a presentation on some of BBSR's projects and technology

Mid WS: Dr Patel explains about the iSTART UAV to some interested attendees at AAD

UPSOUND: DR YOGE PATEL: CEO: BLUE BEAR SYSTEMS RESEARCH

"What we're looking for here is really partnering and working with folk who know what the problems are...I know that we will not be able to solve everything by ourselves. We really do welcome collaboration and partnerships and joint-ventures to allow us to understand the problem and work with yourselves to then find solutions."

Wide MS: Dr Patel explains the iSTART UAV to interested attendee at AAD 2014

MS: Dr Patel explains the iSTART UAV to interested attendee at AAD 2014

Wide MS: Dr Patel explains the iSTART UAV to interested attendee at AAD 2014

WS tracking (Courtesy Blue Bear Systems Research (BBSR)): Man tosses (launches) Blackstart fixed wing unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) into the air