

RAES GOLD MEDAL FOR AUSTRALIAN ENGINEER

ONE of the Australian engineers who helped conceive and develop the Nulka anti-missile decoy received a prestigious international award late last year in London.

The Royal Aeronautical Society in December awarded a gold medal to BAE Systems Australia Chief Designer Malcolm Crozier for his innovative work on the hovering rocket technology that led to the Nulka Active Missile Decoy System. Nulka is a rocket propelled decoy designed to lure anti-ship missiles away from intended targets and is now installed on 120 Australian, US and Canadian combat ships.

The Royal Aeronautical Society has been honouring outstanding achievers in the global aerospace industry since 1908, when Wilbur and Orville Wright came to London to receive the Society's first two Gold Medals.

"In the late 1960s, following the sinking of an Israeli destroyer by a radar homing missile, DSTO was asked to investigate defences against this class of weapon," according to Crozier, who at the time was a guided weapons flight control specialist working for the Government Aircraft Factory at Fishermens Bend, Vic. "At that time, I was the junior member of a two person team tasked [by

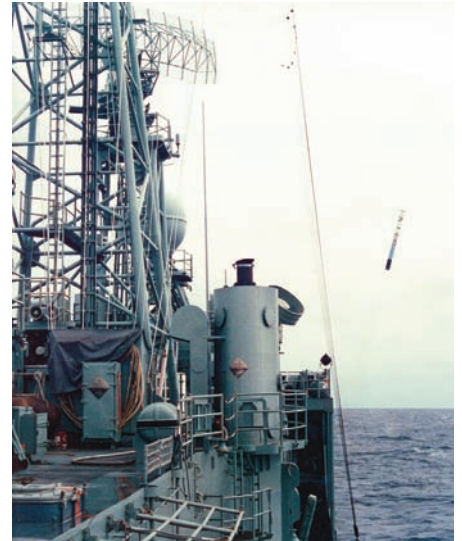
DSTO] to study innovative flight vehicles to carry the electronic decoy payload. From these humble beginnings, and more than 30 years of design, development and testing later, the operational Nulka decoy system has emerged," he said.

Crozier has remained involved with the Nulka program for most of his working life, leading development of the operational system and introducing several technology upgrades to maintain its capability.

BAE Systems Australia Chief Executive Jim McDowell said Crozier had led the development of unique digital flight control and sensor systems that facilitated the radically different flight profile of the Nulka using vectored thrust to maintain a controlled hover.

"He then led the engineering development of the production flight vehicle for the US and Australian navies, overcoming many technological challenges on the way to its successful introduction," McDowell said. "This award by the Royal Aeronautical Society recognises the outstanding contribution that he has made over several decades and is the latest in a long list of well deserved tributes for his work."

BAE Systems is the prime contractor



RIAN

A stroke of genius: Nulka's chief designer has been honoured by the Royal Aeronautical Society.

responsible for the Nulka system design and integration. Two major US sub-contractors, Lockheed Martin and Aerojet, manufacture the electronic warfare (EW) payload and the rocket motor respectively.

UK MOD CONFIRMS FUTURE LYNX PROGRAM

BRITISH Secretary of State for Defence John Hutton has confirmed that the Future Lynx helicopter contract the UK Ministry of Defence (MoD) signed in 2006 will proceed to full production, despite the UK's financial woes.

The contract includes "pull-forward" of technologies to provide an urgent upgrade to the British Army's Lynx AH.9. AgustaWestland will build 62 aircraft initially, 34 for the British Army and 28 for the Royal Navy. With a common design, sensor and weapon capability, Future Lynx will be optimised for either the maritime or battlefield environments, with the versatility and flexibility to be able to be rapidly switched from one role to another. The aircraft will have a multi-role capability able to perform a range of tasks including battlefield reconnaissance, maritime surface attack and utility lift tasks.

The UK MoD has also said it intends to sign a contract with AgustaWestland that will pull forward Future Lynx program technologies to provide a rapid upgrade of 12 British Army Lynx AH.9s with CTS800-4N engines to significantly improve the performance of these aircraft in hot and high operating conditions. The first four of the 12 aircraft will be delivered in late 2009 and the remaining eight will be delivered in 2010. The CTS800-4N engines and associated equipment will be pulled forward from the Future Lynx programme. The new engines produce 37 per cent more power than the current Gem engines that are fitted to the Lynx AH.9.

The Future Lynx deliveries will commence in 2011 and enter operational service with the British Army in 2014 and the Royal Navy in 2015.



AGUSTA WESTLAND