



ASX Announcement

5 October 2026

Hydrix delivers first prototype to NIOA for counter-drone program

Hydrix Limited (ASX: HYD) is pleased to provide a milestone update regarding delivery of the first stage of NIOA's kinetic effector payload solution for counter-drone applications, (counter-uncrewed aerial systems, C-UAS).

The milestone follows Hydrix's appointment by NIOA in May 2026 to provide specialised electronics, software and systems engineering for NIOA's payload development program.

Hydrix has successfully completed the Preliminary Design Review, delivering a benchtop integration system that enables software development, platform-interface communications and integration with key payload subsystems.

The work supports NIOA's payload development for the SYPAQ Systems CORVO interceptor platform being developed under the Advanced Strategic Capabilities Accelerator's (ASCA) Mission SYRACUSE.

From engineering requirement to delivered technology

Hydrix is providing the specialist electronics and embedded systems engineering required to develop the Power & Interface Controller (PIC), a critical electronic subsystem providing telemetry, US Picatinny Common Lethality Integration Kit (CLIK) compatible signal interfacing, safety-interlocks and fuzing logic within the NIOA payload.

The delivered benchtop integration system provides NIOA and its partners with a platform to evaluate the integration between the payload and the host UAS platform ahead of the next stage of detailed electronic design and prototype manufacture.

Hydrix Director Development & Delivery, Andrew Beal said the milestone demonstrated Hydrix's ability to rapidly translate complex Defence requirements into working technology.

"Defence capability development needs to move from concept to field evaluation at a pace that matches the threat. This milestone provided NIOA with a development platform that allows critical payload, platform and software interfaces to be integrated and evaluated early, reducing program risk and accelerating progress toward flight testing."

"The project demonstrates the value Hydrix's can bring to sovereign capability development, solving complex integration challenges and helping emerging defence technologies mature rapidly from concept through to operationally relevant capability."

"This first technology delivery marks the transition from system architecture and preliminary design into detailed design and prototype manufacture. Our focus now is on delivering the flight-test hardware that will support NIOA's ongoing development, integration and evaluation activities."

Supporting Australia's rapidly growing counter-UAS capability

Counter-UAS has become an explicit Australian Defence priority. The Australian Government's 2026 Integrated Investment Program provides up to A\$7 billion for counter-drone capability, forming part of a broader A\$22 billion investment in drone, counter-drone and autonomous systems over the next decade.

ASCA Mission Syracuse is accelerating the development of sovereign Australian technologies capable of countering increasingly sophisticated uncrewed aerial threats.



Hydrix is developing the Power & Interface Controller (PIC) for NIOA's kinetic effector payload. *Image source: NIOA*

Rudi Bekker, NIOA VP Engineering said:

"The program stage delivery demonstrates Hydrix's defence technology expertise in mission-critical electronics, embedded software and complex systems engineering."

"Hydrix's next phase of work will progress the Power & Interface Controller through detailed design and electronic prototype assembly, supporting NIOA's preparations for flight testing of our training payload on the SYPAQ Systems CORVO Interceptor platform. Flight testing of the functionally representative and telemetry capable training payload will provide both NIOA and SYPAQ valuable inputs while our focus rapidly shifts toward the off-platform static firing of the live payload."

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This announcement is authorised for release by the Board of Directors of Hydrix Limited.

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