

# XQ-67A

## WHAT IS IT?

XQ-67A is a relevant, reusable, AFRL-owned uncrewed aircraft system (UAS) built from a platform sharing approach to increase speed to ramp and reduce development cost. Off-Board Sensing Station (OBSS) is the development program that produced the XQ-67A.

The XQ-67A is the first of a second generation of autonomous collaborative platforms (ACP) and is the result of a two-year AFRL Aerospace Systems Directorate led initiative created to rapidly produce an UAS at low cost by leveraging best practices from other industries. This aircraft evolved from the Low Cost Attributable Aircraft Technologies initiative, with the genus/species concept coming from the Low Cost Attributable Aircraft Platform Sharing (LCAAPS) program.

The first ACP generation is the XQ-58A, which proved to be able to build relevant combat capability fast while treating cost as the primary objective. The OBSS program builds upon the low-cost capability that the XQ-58A proved by leveraging design and manufacturing technology research from the first generation.

## WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

The recent flight demonstration activities indicate the emergence of a second generation of ACP. Flight demonstration validates the platform sharing approach through build, ground and flight testing to prove airworthiness, which adds credibility to the cost data collected on this relevant platform.

This second generation of ACP incorporates advancements in design and manufacturing technology that have emerged since the first generation. In addition to advancing the product line approach, successful flight test of XQ-67A matures these technologies through validation in a relevant environment.

Flight demonstration of this system is a major step towards showing our nation's ability to produce affordable mass.

## ADDITIONAL FACTS

- The genus platform will allow for rapid aircraft development at a lower cost.
- The chassis will allow for various kits or systems to be built upon, enabling diversity in performance and features.
- Because the platform allows for rapid development at a lower cost, the DAF can remain responsive to capability gaps.
- AFRL is leveraging best practices from consumer industries to commoditize ACP aircraft production.
- LCAAPS and OBSS are about the process and learning and proving another DOD acquisition approach as much as the end product of the XQ-67A aircraft.
- The XQ-67A is not a Collaborative Combat Aircraft (CCA) program candidate.



*With first flight on Feb. 28, 2024, the XQ-67A team reached the summit, an achievement cast in history.*



*XQ-67A on its first landing rollout, Feb 28, 2024.*

## ABOUT AFRL

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