Sikorsky And Robinson Unmanned Secure U.S. Marine Corps Contract For Autonomous Aerial Logistics Program

Medium Aerial Resupply Vehicle – Expeditionary Logistics (MARV-EL) program moves forward with MATRIX™ autonomy system and R66 TURBINETRUCK. Initiative will deliver rapid, uncrewed resupply to Marines in contested environments.

Artistic rendering of R66 TURBINETRUCK equipped with Sikorsky's proven MATRIX™ autonomy system. Credit: Robinson Unmanned.

WASHINGTON, April 27, 2026 – The United States Marine Corps awarded a $15.5 million contract to Sikorsky, a Lockheed Martin company (NYSE:LMT), for the Medium Aerial Resupply Vehicle – Expeditionary Logistics (MARV-EL) Increment 2 program. The offering selected for award is the R66 TURBINETRUCK, an autonomous cargo helicopter commercially developed by Sikorsky and Robinson Unmanned that combines Sikorsky's proven MATRIX™ autonomy system with the rugged R66 airframe from Robinson Helicopter Company to provide flexible, affordable and rapid combat sustainment.

The ability to deliver ammunition, medical supplies and other essential equipment at the point of need – regardless of terrain, weather, or enemy threat – is critical to the U.S. Marine Corps' continued success. The MARV-EL program fills a capability gap between small tactical drones and large strategic airlifters, delivering a reliable "middleweight" uncrewed logistics platform capable of operating from austere forward operating bases, ship decks or unimproved landing zones. The R66 TURBINETRUCK will support mission success when ground or crewed aviation assets are unavailable and keep personnel out of danger in high-risk scenarios.

The R66 TURBINETRUCK is enabled by the MATRIX system and will leverage similar features as Sikorsky's new fully autonomous S-70UAS™ U-Hawk™ helicopter.

Executive Perspectives

"As we expand the MATRIX family, we also extend the reach of uncrewed solutions for both civil and military customers," said Rich Benton, vice president and general manager of Sikorsky. "The commercially developed R66 TURBINETRUCK is simple, economical and re-configurable; ideal for high-risk, hard-to-reach environments where keeping personnel out of harm's way is essential."

"Our partnership with Sikorsky brings the trusted performance and reliability of the R66 platform into the unmanned logistics arena," said David Smith, president and CEO of Robinson Helicopter Company. "The R66 TURBINETRUCK represents a significant step forward in expanding proven rotorcraft into scalable, autonomous cargo solutions for demanding operational environments. Together, we are delivering a game-changing capability that will enhance warfighter readiness and open new opportunities for safe, reliable and affordable autonomous transport."

"Operators need logistics solutions that can keep pace with rapidly changing mission demands without increasing complexity," said Paul Fermo, president of Robinson Unmanned. "By combining MATRIX's advanced autonomous capability with the rugged, flight-proven R66 airframe, the R66 TURBINETRUCK delivers that capability whenever and wherever it's needed—no matter the environment."

Why It Matters

The MARV-EL program is the middleweight capability responding to a gap within the Unmanned Logistics System – Air (ULS-A) program.

- **Payload & Range**: MARV-EL requires an uncrewed aircraft that can carry a logistic payload between 1,300 and 2,500 lbs to a combat radius of 100 nautical miles (NM), operating through a common digital handheld device.

- **Delivery:** Robinson Unmanned will deliver the first R66 TURBINETRUCK to Sikorsky for integration, test and evaluation, and demonstration. Capability demonstrations will showcase MATRIX's platform-agnostic and open architecture design operating on the R66 TURBINETRUCK airframe.
- **Integration:** MATRIX will integrate into the R66 TURBINETRUCK in a similar manner as Sikorsky's S-70UAS U-Hawk helicopter, while incorporating a smaller footprint, different performance parameters and a lower operating cost.
- **Operator Workflow:** Similar to the U-Hawk helicopter, the operator enters the mission objectives into a digital tablet. The system then automatically creates a flight plan, using sensors and algorithms to guide the R66 TURBINETRUCK safely to the target location.
- **Experience:** Sikorsky participated in the U.S. Marine Corps' Aerial Logistics Connector (ALC) Phase 1 in 2025 and will be bringing that experience to MARV-EL Increment 2.

For more information, visit https://www.lockheedmartin.com/matrix and https://www.robinsonunmanned.com/r66-turbinetruck.

About Lockheed Martin
Lockheed Martin is a global defense technology company driving innovation and advancing scientific discovery. Our all-domain mission solutions and 21st Century Security® vision accelerate the delivery of transformative technologies to ensure those we serve always stay ahead of ready. More information at lockheedmartin.com.

About Robinson Unmanned
Robinson Unmanned is the uncrewed aircraft systems (UAS) business unit of Robinson Helicopter Company, focused on delivering scalable, aerospace-grade VTOL platforms across civil and defense missions. Integrating modular open architecture, advanced autonomy technologies, and full-production rotorcraft platforms, Robinson Unmanned enables operators to extend capability while reducing human risk. From compact coaxial systems to heavy-lift autonomous rotorcraft, Robinson Unmanned delivers rugged, reliable, mission-ready aircraft built to perform. Learn more at RobinsonUnmanned.com.

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