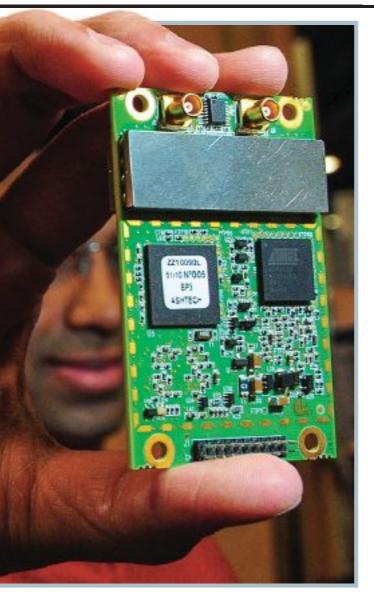


DreamHammer goes Ballista for control software NEWS p9





Slovenian firm hopes its UAV blossoms

Slovenian manufacturer C-Astral is blooming as its Bramour gEO survey UAV is distributed throughout the world. The Mark IV, equipped with both visible/multispectral or color/infrared paired payloads, is optimized for differentiating plant species.

"Basically it's a system optimized for agriculture, monitoring, everything that has to go with vegetation, forestry and so on, because you have a very high-quality multilayer, multispectral picture," says Marko Peljhan, the company's CEO.

A total of 35 aircraft have been sold and operated on five continents, including Antarctica.

The blended-wing-body aircraft boasts a 3h endurance and 20-mile (32km) range. Several military versions have sold.

AUVSI 2013 marks C-Astral's first booth display at the show. In addition to meeting many of its US suppliers, the company is making inroads in anticipation of the blossoming US civil market.



RHex can leave others in the dust

University of Pennsylvania's RHex kicks up sand in the ground demonstration area. RHex is a small, agile robot with a sealed body, making it capable of traversing rough terrain and climbing up slopes and stairways. It can be operated remotely at distances of up to 700m. The RHex platform was first developed through a multiuniversity collaboration more than a decade ago and may one day climb over rubble in a rescue mission or cross the desert.