

HII hands over USVs to Marines

In partnership with boatbuilder MetalCraft Marine, Huntington Ingalls Industries (HII) has delivered a pair of Romulus-25 unmanned surface vessels (USV) to the US Marine Corps (USMC).

Awarded under a 2025 Defense Innovation Unit (DIU) contract for smaller form factor autonomous boat prototypes, the two USVs have now been "sea tested" HII said on 15 May, as part of successful testing and demonstration of advanced autonomous mission behaviours at sea. This followed delivery of the two craft to the USMC last December.

The successful execution of the DIU contract represents one of several ongoing commitments by HII and MetalCraft Marine to advance hybrid manned-unmanned fleet capabilities and enable next-generation autonomous operations in support of naval missions worldwide.

The Romulus-25 is 8.2m long and of a monohull design, with a payload and range of up to 450kg and 1,000nm, respectively.

The Romulus-25 USV is capable of fully autonomous operation and powered by the Odyssey



ABOVE: HII delivered two Romulus-25 USVs to the USMC last December, whereupon they underwent at-sea testing and conducted autonomy demonstrations. Image: HII

AI-based autonomy system. Odyssey integrates multiple sensors and effectors to enable co-ordinated, cross-domain maritime operations, HII stated.

Over the past 5 years, Odyssey USV autonomy has been validated through more than 2,200 hours of autonomous operations during government-led tests and exercises. The Odyssey autonomy platform has to date been deployed on more than 30 platforms, accumulating in excess of 12,000 hours

of successful at-sea operation. Its modular open systems architecture, service-based design enables integration with the HII Minotaur targeting network, enhancing mission-level operations and edge capabilities through AI-based contact recognition and identification.

The Romulus-25 is part of HII's USV stable, which also includes a 2m long micro-USV and the 58m Romulus-190 capable of carrying multiple containerised payloads.

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Slimmed-down Javelin CLUs delivered

The **Javelin Joint** Venture (JJV) has delivered the first Lightweight Command Launch Units (LWCLU) to the US Army.

"The production and delivery of the LWCLU marks a pivotal step in modernising the Javelin system for today's warfighter," said Rich Liccion, JJV vice president and Lockheed Martin Javelin program director. "Its innovative design enhances mobility and survivability while preserving the precision firepower that users rely on."

The Javelin LWCLU features twice

the target detection and recognition range while reducing size by 30% and weight by 25%. The LWCLU also provides a day/night surveillance capability.

In October 2024, the US Army awarded the Raytheon-Lockheed Martin JJV two full-rate production contracts totalling US\$267 million (AUD\$405.7 million) to supply the LWCLU to the Army and US Marine Corps and fulfill Foreign Military Sales agreements with Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and the UK. In Estonia's case, it has ordered 800

FGM-148F Javelin missiles and 72 LWCLUs.

The LWCLU is adaptable and compatible with all current, past and future Javelin variants.

In May 2025, the British Army became the first international user to fire a Javelin missile out to 4,000m using the LWCLU.

A US Foreign Military Sales request by Australia for 161 LWCLUs was approved in August last year, with a cost of up to US\$97.3 million (AUD\$149.9 million) cited. The purchase would include a basic skills

trainer, missile simulation rounds and battery coolant unit, technical and operator manuals, life-cycle support, spare parts and various US Government and contractor technical assistance, engineering, logistics, tool kits and training.

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RIGHT: Smaller and lighter by 1.75kg, the LWCLU will improve soldier mobility during dismounted operations.

Image: Raytheon



Hanwha lifts lid on new AAV

KOREAN AMPHIBIOUS ASSAULT VEHICLE II

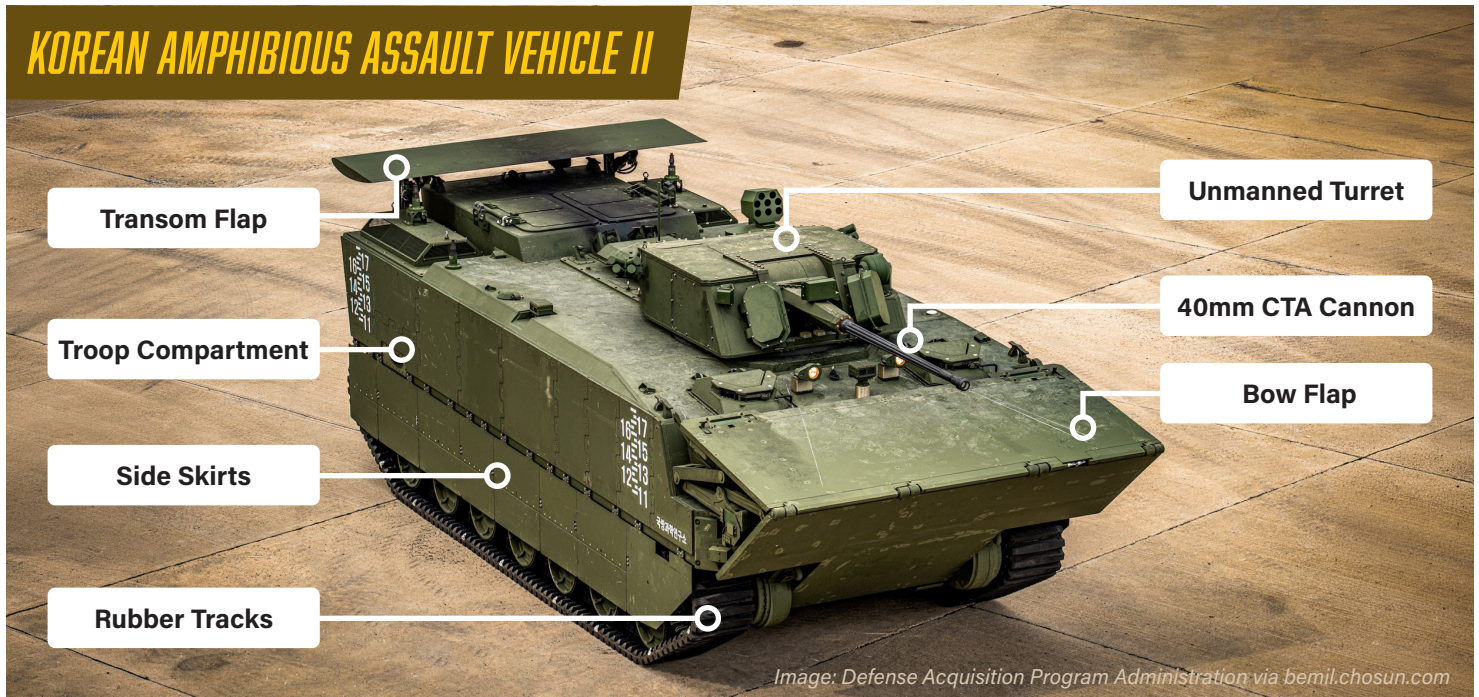


Image: Defense Acquisition Program Administration via bemil.chosun.com

South Korean defence giant Hanwha Aerospace has unveiled its developmental Korean Amphibious Assault Vehicle II (KAAV II).

Conceived more than a decade ago to replace the local version of the AAV-7 in service with the Republic of Korea Marine Corps, Hanwha provided access to a part prototype/part mock-up of a KAAV II to local media, making numerous images available that revealed key aspects of the design.

Citing observations from Korean commentators on social media platforms – Hanwha had not released any technical details at press time – the KAAV II design features a large two-

piece trim vane/bow flap to assist in high-speed water transits, a transom flap and shrouded waterjet propulsors installed either side of the narrow rear ramp. Fold-up side skirts run along both flanks of the 9m long, 3.6m wide hull. The overall design resembles that of the ill-fated Expeditionary Fighting Vehicle that was under development for the US Marine Corps in the late 1990/early 2000s until its cancellation in early 2011.

The KAAV II reportedly has a combat weight of around 35 tonnes and an unmanned turret sitting well forward, providing maximum room in the rear compartment to accommodate 18 troops, plus a crew of three.

Main armament is a 40mm cased telescoped ammunition (CTA) cannon with a maximum rate-of-fire of 200 rounds per minute. Images of the turret show an air surveillance radar module mounted either side of the main armament, suggesting either future fitment of an active protection system or a counter-drone role for the 40mm gun.

Equipped with Soucy composite rubber tracks, maximum speed on land is given as 70km/h and around 10 knots in water.

Low-rate initial production of the KAAV II is expected by the end of the decade.

- Ian Bostock