Expansion continues, new products ahead for Boresight

DEFENCE INDUSTRY

ABOVE: Boresight's facility in Huntsville, Alabama, will soon have the capacity to produce several thousand drones a year for the US market. *Images: Boresight*

In its sixth year of operation, Australian target drone specialist Boresight has gained traction in overseas markets and will launch four new products before the end of 2026.

The Canberra-based company has emerged as one of the shining lights of the Australian defence industry, experiencing 50% growth year upon year by fulfilling the expanding requirement for counter-drone training and testing support among the Australian Defence Force (ADF) and other militaries.

The company initially used low cost 'eBay' drones as training devices but found them to be laborious to construct and inconsistent in the way they flew. In response, Boresight's chief technical officer, Dr Alexander Hall, developed a drone that was faster to build and flew more consistently, therein creating the basis of the company's target drone offerings.

Boresight's current product stable centres around the BQ-400 quadcopter target drone and BS-350 surveillance drone, as well as a proprietary ground control system (GCS).

The company is well positioned in the Australian market, with drones supporting regular training exercises across the ADF and also in use supporting the Army's Land 156 project and Mission Syracuse.

"Internationally things have really started to take off for us," Boresight managing director Justin Olde told *DTR* in an interview. "Our target drones are now in-service with all four arms of the US military, the UK Ministry of Defence, Canadian Armed Forces as well as numerous militaries in Europe, Asia and the Middle East".

In 2024, Boresight established a US footprint in Huntsville, Alabama, and commenced production of BQ-400 target drones. Expansion into a larger, more capable facility is earmarked in coming months, with the Huntsville site to have the capacity to produce several thousand drones a year, specifically for the US market. A Europe/UK office was set up in 2025 in Nottingham, with that site to also expand in the short term.

In most cases, the company makes use of local resellers to penetrate its overseas markets but utilises its own team in the US to support the reseller network and to facilitate local manufacturing.

The foundation of Boresight's success, Mr Olde stated, is the central tenet of being able to manufacture drones at scale.

"Everything we do is focused on providing a simple, reliable and cost-effective tool to support training, testing, development and demonstration of counter-UAS [unmanned aerial systems] capabilities. This is helped by the fact that our product is a consumable.

"As our customers get better at neutralising the drone threat, they need more target drones," added Mr Olde. "We've priced our product so that, in most cases, the ammunition being fired at the drones costs more than the drone, and the drone is just another consumable in the training cycle."

The company's GCS has also been key to commercial success, enabling a single operator to control multiple drones simultaneously in a safe, simple and reliable manner. With two days training an operator can construct complex threat emulation scenarios with different drone types. These scenarios can be saved, repeated and recreated in any location to create consistent training vignettes or test plans.

With the uptake of drones exploding in recent years and a corresponding surge in demand for counter-UAS capabilities, Mr Olde sees significant opportunities for not just contracts but also growth in the business.

"As militaries introduce counter-UAS capabilities into service, they'll require a simple, reliable and cost-effective training support solution. We're positioned to fill that requirement."

Other opportunities, Mr Olde said, include an expansion into UAS decoy operations, which is hoped will open up a new market without requiring changes to Boresight's underlying UAS ecosystem.

The listing of the company last month and a capital raise of AUD$8 million in the first initial public offering (IPO) has enabled Boresight to invest in supply chain inventory, engineering, production and sales and marketing.

"Now we can produce more drones, expand our product portfolio and target new markets," Mr Olde said. "Most importantly, the listing allows us to move from manufacturing-to-order to a true commercial off-the-shelf supplier of target, ISR and decoy drones. This change will drastically reduce lead times from order to delivery and eliminate the previous choke point in meeting demand caused by lack of parts on the shelf to enable continuous drone production."

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The company has also grown its engineering team to enable it to complete development of a range of new products. Before the close of 2026, Boresight anticipates the launch of four new products:

- BQ-750 – larger quadcopter drone with increased endurance and payload;
- BQ-300 – FPV (first person view) style target drone that emulates the speed and agility of an FPV drone;
- BF-100 – small, fixed-wing target drone; and
- BS-350 Block 2 – a ruggedised, more reliable and easier to use evolution of the BS-350 sovereign UAS program drone that has been in service since mid-2025.

In 2027, the company plans to release the BF-150 fixed-wing target drone that emulates the flight performance of common loitering munitions such as the Switchblade 600 or Russian Lancet.

– Ian Bostock

BELOW: Whilst target drones remain at the core of its product range, Boresight has developed several new products for release in 2026/2027, including a large quadcopter drone and a fixed-wing target drone that emulates the flight performance of loitering munitions.