

# Textron AirLand

**T**ODAY'S BEST air forces face many complex challenges. One of which is a strong need for affordable, high performance trainers capable of migrating tasks from costly advanced fighters. There is also an insatiable demand for persistent, flexible intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR) platforms delivering critical information and the ability to act on information in real time to meet defence needs. Traditionally, these missions have yielded immensely expensive, increasingly complex fleets of aircraft straining national budgets and driving ever-increasing manpower requirements. The Textron AirLand Scorpion shatters that paradigm. Using commercial practices, leading edge design technologies, and the world-class workforce and facilities of Textron Aviation, the Scorpion raced from concept to first flight in just 23 months.

From its inception, the Scorpion has been designed and built to capture the synergy between commercial aircraft production

# Scorpion: A New Direction in Tactical Aircraft



practices, leading edge avionics and advanced mission system technologies. In two years of flight operations, the Scorpion has achieved more than 98 percent availability rate and a comprehensive cost per flight hour below \$3000, including consumables, system/engine reserves and labor. This is a combat aircraft that delivers high-end capabilities and performance at a price which not only breaks,

but completely rewrites the rising cost curve that challenges even the most affluent nations to build and sustain the air force they need.

Flexibility and adaptability are not only the characteristics of the Scorpion team but the hallmarks of the aircraft itself. The Scorpion was designed to incorporate a broad range of sensors and weapons and features retractable sensor moorings, the latest digital bus technology on six hard-points, and an internal bay equipped with power, cooling and

data connections for today's advanced sensors with growth capacity far into the future. This adaptability enables the Scorpion to excel in many roles: armed reconnaissance, maritime control, close air support, intermediate and advanced jet training, and ISR for humanitarian assistance and disaster relief. The ability to rapidly reconfigure sensors and weapons on the Scorpion enable one platform to

master diverse missions yielding significant acquisition, operations, logistics and training benefits.

The Scorpion's mission-set agility is achievable due to the aircraft's aerodynamic and systems performance. The Scorpion has unrefuelled combat sortie duration of more than five hours, top speed to sprint to a target, low speed to provide extended coverage or to shadow slow aircraft, the ability to share full motion video or other intelligence in real time and the latest in weapons capability. The aircraft delivers the intuitive handling required in the safest trainers along with the high-end performance and systems to teach advanced student pilots. All of this with logistics requirements at a fraction of the cost and footprint of typical combat aircraft.

The Textron AirLand Scorpion is a bold new direction for tactical combat aircraft. The team continues to demonstrate flexibility and adaptability and will fly the first production conforming Scorpion this summer. ■