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Navy League 2016: Velodyne reveals new LIDAR 3-D sensors

Daniel Wasserbly, National Harbor, Maryland - IHS Jane's International Defence Review

16 May 2016

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Velodyne's VLP-16 LITE 3-D sensors for aerial platforms. Source: Velodyne

Velodyne has unveiled two new LIDAR 3-D sensors in its Velodyne LIDAR Puck (VLP) product line: the VLP-16 LITE for unmanned aerial platforms and VLP-32 for unmanned terrestrial driving.

The company was essentially formed in response to the US Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) autonomous vehicle challenges, and has produced and sold its Hi-Definition LIDAR (HDL) line of the HDL-64 and HDL-32, and the VLP-16.

The HDL-64 was among the first major spinning sensors and led what was then Team Digital Auto Drive to transform into a component supplier for other DARPA challenges and autonomous vehicle projects.

At Navy League's Sea-Air-Space conference, Velodyne revealed its VLP-16 LITE for aerial platforms. John Eggert, senior sales and marketing manager at Velodyne, told *IHS Jane's* the system drops about 30% from the original VLP-16's 830 g (1.8 lb) weight, down to 590 g. He said miniaturisation and new materials allow for the same capability at a lighter weight, meaning it can now be more easily integrated on aerial platforms.

Velodyne also announced its VLP-32, a smaller form factor that can 'see' out to 200 m, twice the distance as the original HDL-32. The longer range allows for higher velocity driving because it can see farther; this requires far more computing power but processors are increasingly able to keep up with more data, Eggert noted.

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He said the eventual target cost is USD500, but that depends on order volumes (likely some commercial sales on top of military sales). The VLP-32's design is directly influenced by projected military requirements, Eggert added.

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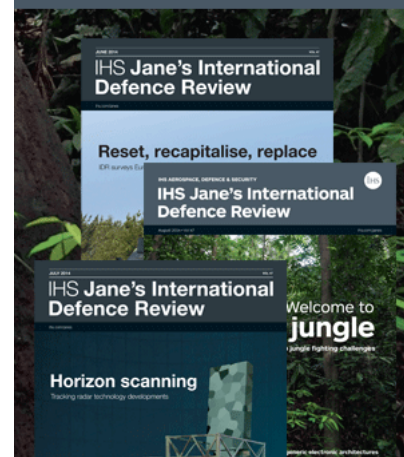


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