

# press release

Embargoed until 0700

19<sup>th</sup> July 2010

**Ultra Electronics Holdings plc**  
 (“Ultra” or “the Group”)

## Ultra Launch the HIDL™ Family of Data Links

Ultra is launching its new HIDL™ family of data links that connect the battle-space meeting the demands of increasingly networked operations.

HIDL™ is a family of flexible, networkable, software definable digital data links which are optimised to meet highly sensitive, time critical information exchange needs, such as unmanned systems, weapon systems and information exchange between multiple platforms and/or nodes.

The HIDL™ family builds upon the data links successfully used in the UK Watchkeeper UAV programme and the UK Fire Shadow Loitering Munition programmes, with increased data rates and scalable to suit small form factors for missile data links.



The networking functionality of HIDL™ greatly aids in increasing connectivity and wider interoperability across the battle-space and in delivering increased shared situational awareness and Full Motion Video (FMV) to the users.

The software definable nature of HIDL™ means that it is easy to adapt to customer specific needs; whether this is tailoring the HIDL™ waveform or hosting a customer specific digital waveform. The modular and scalable nature of the hardware allows the customer to optimise to suit range and platform needs. These two factors, allied to the flexible security and performance characteristics, gives HIDL™ customers a much larger trade space to scale and tailor the variant of HIDL™ to meet their security and performance needs within their platform, budget and wider system constraints.

HIDL™ is typically employed as a secure network (with single or multiple nodes) providing:-

- Command and Control (platforms, sensors and weapons)
- Enhanced Situational Awareness (sensor information dissemination – imagery, EO/IR, GMTI)
- Critical information exchange between multiple platforms / nodes.

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## Key Benefits

- Covert - robust secure anti-jam, noise-like waveform with Low Probability Intercept and Low Probability Detect
- Secure - option for additional country sovereign encryption
- Resilient - capable of operating in a GPS denied environment
- Low latency - critical to support weapon engagements and landing of UAV systems
- Networkable - supports multiple node networks and over the horizon relay
- Scalable - available in a number of size, weight and power configurations to meet platform constraints and range needs
- Flexible - available with a variable bandwidth, bands and security options

*Mike Baptist, Managing Director of Ultra Electronics Communication and Integrated Systems, responding to this good news, said:*

*“I am very excited by the HIDL™ family of data links, which now allow Ultra to offer flexible and scalable solutions to meet current and future requirements at the heart of battlespace networks where performance and capability in mission critical and harsh environments really matter”*

Visit Ultra Electronics Limited at Hall 1, Stand C7 during the Farnborough Air Show.

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### Further information about Ultra:

**Ultra Electronics** is an internationally successful defence and aerospace company with a long, consistent track record of development and growth. Ultra businesses constantly innovate to create solutions to customer requirements that are different from and better than those of the Group's competitors. The Group has over one hundred distinct market or technology niches within its twenty five businesses. The diversity of niches enables Ultra to contribute to a large number of defence, aerospace and civil platforms and programmes and provides resilience to the Group's financial performance. Ultra has world-leading positions in many of its niches and, as an independent, non-threatening partner, is able to support all of the main prime contractors with specialist capabilities and solutions. As a result of such positioning, Ultra's systems, equipment or services are often mission-critical to the successful operation of the platform to which they contribute. In turn, this mission-criticality secures Ultra's positions for the long term which underpin the superior financial performance of the Group.

Ultra offers support to its customers through the design, delivery and support phases of a programme. Ultra businesses have a high degree of operational autonomy where the local management teams are empowered to devise and implement competitive strategies that reflect their expertise in their specific niches. The Group has a small head office and executive team that provide to the individual businesses the same agile, responsive support that they provide to customers as well as formulating Ultra's overarching, corporate strategy.

Across the Group's three divisions, the major market sectors in which Ultra operates are:

- **battlespace IT**, summarised as being the systems and equipment that allows coalition commanders to have an integrated, real-time picture of the disposition of friendly and enemy forces that is better than the one available to the enemy. This information superiority underpins rapid decision making which, together with effective command, control and communications, translates into military superiority. The use of battlespace IT is fundamental to the implementation of the military doctrines of 'network-centric warfare' or 'network-enabled capability' that are seen as transformational in the capability to win future battles. Expenditure on battlespace IT equipment therefore continues to represent an increasing share of the total defence budget in the main markets in which Ultra operates.
- **sonar systems**, expanding Ultra's traditional world-leading airborne anti-submarine warfare capability into broader activities in the underwater battlespace. These include integrated ship and submarine sonar systems, persistent seabed-deployed sensor arrays, torpedo defence and sea mine disposal systems. The fact that over forty countries have, between them, more than four hundred highly capable, stealthy submarines is continuing to focus expenditure in this sector.
- **civil and military aircraft equipment**, Ultra provides specialist sub-systems and equipment for military and civil aircraft. The main military aircraft programmes on which Ultra equipment is fitted continue to have political support, underpinned by consistent financial commitment. For civil aircraft, record order intake performance by all major aircraft manufacturers underpins increasing build rates for the medium term.
- **specialist defence equipment**, including power conversion and signature systems for naval ships and submarines. Ultra's specialist capability in high integrity controls for submarine nuclear reactors is included in this sector, for which there is continuing commitment to new platforms and the upgrade of existing boats. Ultra also supplies advanced sub-systems for modern armoured vehicles including those for electrical power management, indirect vision and weapon control. The need for increased mobility and force protection is driving a number of large military vehicle procurements in Ultra's main markets.
- **specialist civil systems and equipment**, including Ultra's advanced airport IT solutions. Airline passenger growth around the world is driving continuing expansion and upgrade of airport infrastructure. Ultra supplies trackside power equipment for rail transit systems, for which demand continues driven by the need to expand and upgrade rail networks. The UK market for nuclear power generation is expanding and Ultra's offering derived from its equivalent military capability is well positioned to benefit.