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NAL gets drone facility

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The National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL) has initiated programmes to further develop UAVs that can carry payloads ranging from 5 to 100 kg and which will have a considerable socio-economic impact by providing services to agriculture, forest, mining and other civil sectors.

Union Minister for Science and Technology Dr Harsh Vardhan (in pic), who inaugurated a UAV design and integration facility at NAL on Monday, said that CISR lab, which has so far been involved in the design and development of mini and micro unmanned air vehicles has initiated the new programme.

“The nation’s requirements are for UAVs for strategic and commercial surveillance, mapping of corps, mines and water bodies, search and rescue operations, time critical applications like transport of medicines and organ for transplant use of UAV in providing services in these areas will have a positive output in the GDP,” he said

The design and integration facility will house the entire spectrum of activities from preliminary and detailed design to manufacture integration and testing.

The facility will have design analysis and Computational fluid dynamics (CFD), Computer Aided Engineering (CAE) software, 3D printing/ rapid prototyping, avionics testing and vehicles integration.

It will enable the design engineer to go through the complete development cycle from concept to product.

NAL has developed many technologies customised UAVs that satisfy requirements of various users, both

from strategic and civil sectors. These include autopilot hardware, autopilot control laws, ground control stations software and processes for manufacturing lightweight composite structures.