



DUBAI: MARTIN JETPACK ROCKETS IN FOR DUBAI PREMIERE

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New Zealand firm **Martin Aircraft** is eyeing the sales opportunities for its developmental one-man **jetpack** in the Middle East.

Appearing for the first time at the Dubai air show, Martin Aircraft is primarily focused on the first responder market in the region.

Company chief executive and managing director Peter Coker says it is working to commercialise the jetpack, with the aim of a first customer delivery in the second half of 2016. The company has yet to confirm a sale, but applications include emergency medical response, border security, oil and gas, and mining. Eventually the system will be made available for personal use.

Flight testing is underway in New Zealand using a prototype system identical to the one on the company's stand.

The Martin Jetpack is powered by a V4, two-stroke gasoline engine that generates 200hp (150kW), driving two ducted fans. The system weighs 200kg (441lb), and can carry a payload of 120kg, says Coker. The company's target price for the system is \$200,000, but it is still refining its supply chain. Endurance is 30-45min.

In an emergency medical services role Coker compares the system to a motorcycle-borne first responder, who arrives on the scene quickly with basic life-saving equipment.

The Jetpack can be operated in a manned or unmanned configuration. Another feature, which the company calls "mule train" allows a manned system to lead up to five remotely controlled unmanned examples.

The aircraft has a microlight certification from the New Zealand Civil Aviation Authority, but Martin Aircraft is working with the authorities to create its own unique category.

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