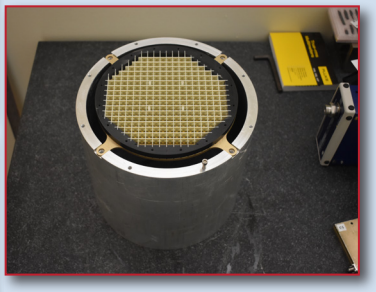
Antenna Research Associates: When Every Second Counts



Antenna Research Associates (ARA) has a six-decade long history of producing many of the world's most notable antennas, including the first to be placed atop the Empire State Building in New York City. R. Wayne Masters and John H. Dunlvay who founded the Laurel, Md., company in 1963, were industry pioneers who made significant contributions to advancing antenna and electromagnetic systems technology throughout their careers.

ARA's first products were small antennas for long-range, high frequency communications, produced for a customer base surrounding the Fort Meade area of Maryland. Building upon early successes, the company quickly became a forerunner in broadband antenna systems for surveillance, spectrum management and TEMPEST testing. In the 1970s and 1980s, ARA added new capabilities and products, including VSAT antennas, satcom products, military and commercial radar systems and antenna systems for mobile and tactical communications. In the 1990s, ARA's product expansion focused on military products including high gain horn arrays, high gain broadband omnidirectional antennas for jamming, body wearable antennas and quick deployment antennas.

In 2014, ARA's current CEO Logen Thiran, along with a group of institutional investors, began accelerating the company's growth once again. Through a combination of organic growth and acquisition over the past 10 years, ARA has expanded to more than 220 employees in four ISO 9001:2015-certified fully NIST-compliant facilities totaling nearly 150,000 square feet in three states. The company has remained true to its roots with a customer mix that is 95 percent defense, five percent commercial, along with 95 percent U.S. and five percent international companies.

Thiran's ultimate plan for ARA, to become a leading supplier of C5ISR products and technologies to the aerospace and defense community, is nearing the finish line with the recent acquisitions of two Massachusetts companies, AQYR Technologies and SI2 Technologies. The innovative technology of AQYR and SI2 added product offerings and capabilities to ARA have expanded its communications and electromagnetic systems expertise and product portfolios for a broader set of target markets.

ARA has evolved far beyond its legacy antenna products and provides advanced apertures integrating signature mitigation technologies, as well as a wide range of advanced arrays, including AESA and PESA systems. ARA's expertise also extends to terminals that incorporate antennas with a portfolio of multi-band, multi-mission VSAT terminals. The current market verticals for ARA's integrated solutions are satcom, radar, electronic warfare and milcom; but the company is steadily growing and pursuing new opportunities in hypersonic, advanced aircraft, missiles and munitions, counter UAS-technologies and space applications.

The key benefit to customers and stakeholders is that while ARA is rapidly expanding its product portfolio and broadening its target market, it remains a non-traditional contractor with a small-business, entrepreneurial mindset that focuses on the immediate and long-term needs of its customers. It is agile and can produce both small and large quantities of customized products. An example, on one end of the vertical integration chain, ARA now has internal additive manufacturing capabilities that enable 2D and 2.5D printing on flexible substrates and curved surfaces. On the other end of that chain, ARA maintains multiple outdoor test ranges and anechoic chambers with test capabilities from 20 MHz to 50 GHz.

Warfighters know that every second counts, and ARA's versatility and unique mix of economical high volume production, groundbreaking technology development and subsystem integration is ready to answer the call.

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