X-Bow to help solve air defence cost problem

X-Bow, manufacturers of solid rocket motors, have been awarded an $11 million contract to build low cost interceptors – solving the problem of sending million-dollar missiles against thousand-dollar drones

DRONE CLASSES

Group 5: Weight >600kg
Altitude >5.5km
Maximum speed – any

MQ-9 Reaper

Group 4: >600 kg
Altitude <5.5km
Speed - any

MQ-1C Grey Eagle

Group 3: 25-600kg
Altitude 1-5.5km
Speed: 185-465km/h

Unit cost
$20,000-
$50,000

Shahed-136 (Iran)
Warhead: 30-50kg
Speed: 185km/h

Group 2: 9.5-25 kg
Altitude <1km
Speed <465km/h

Gerbera (Russia)

$10,000

Group 1: <9 kg
<0.36km
<185km/h

INTERCEPTORS

X-BOW BUCKLER

Under $100,000

Supersonic, suitable for Group 3 drones and low-end cruise missiles

FIM-92 STINGER
Short-range surface-to-air missile

$120,000

Scalability: *Airframe, rocket motor, and propellant made in-house*

PAC-3 PATRIOT

Speed Mach 5

Solid-rocket motor

$4 million

AIM-9X SIDEWINDER
Supersonic, heat-seeking, air-to-air missile

$400,000

Sources: X-Bow, Army Recognition, TWZ

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