About Pharad

Founded in 2003 and located in Hanover, Maryland, Pharad is a customer focused company carrying out innovative research, development, and manufacturing in the areas of highly efficient, electrically small antennas and RF-over-Fiber technologies. Pharad operates an ISO9001: 2008 manufacturing facility that delivers high quality production volume products to a wide range of government and commercial customers. In response to increased customer demand, Pharad formed the octane® division in 2007 and we now sell our products through the octane® brand.
High Performance UAV Antennas

Smaller and lighter weight Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) are increasingly being used for more complex communications and intelligence applications. To increase loitering capability and persistence of these aircraft, lighter weight, more aerodynamic antennas are required. Pharad has developed and manufactures a variety of high performing, lightweight, low profile antennas for UAVs. Each antenna class developed by Pharad has been optimized for low weight, aerodynamics, and electromagnetic performance. These state-of-the-art antennas enable increased flight range and link performance compared to traditional airborne antennas. Additionally, the wideband antennas reduce the number of required apertures in an airframe, further reducing aerodynamic drag and logistics costs.

The electromagnetic designs of the Pharad UAV antennas account for the material from which the UAV is constructed. Different solutions are provided for UAVs built from composites such as fiberglass, Kevlar, or polypropylene, and for UAVs constructed from aluminum or carbon fiber. Frequency ranges available include VHF through C-band.

In addition to our standard COTS (commercial off-the-shelf) antennas, Pharad offers custom engineered solutions that conform to a customer’s exact specifications. Pharad’s innovative antenna design team can develop custom UAV antennas to meet specific form factor and radiation requirements.

Ultra-Lightweight Blade Antennas

Pharad’s UAV blade antennas are the smallest, lightest weight, highest performing UAV antennas on the market, weighing less than 1 ounce. These antennas provide broadband performance from UHF to C-band, enabling fewer apertures on a UAV to cover multiple communications links. Efficient broadband dipole performance of these antennas is maintained regardless of the mounting environment, as the performance is independent of UAV fuselage material. The thin blades are designed to minimize drag. The reduced weight and improved aerodynamics of these antennas, along with the elimination of multiple apertures, provide improved range and persistence of lightweight UAVs. When UHF to C-band broadband performance is required, the deployment of Pharad’s ultra-lightweight blade antennas improve the mission capabilities of lightweight UAVs.

Low Profile Antennas

Pharad offers a number of moderate-gain, low-profile UAV antennas operating in the L- and S-bands. These low-profile antennas provide hemispherical coverage under the UAVs, allowing communication links to be maintained even when the UAV is directly overhead. Antenna performance is maintained independent of the UAV fuselage material. Mounting the antenna to a small metallic or composite UAV is easily accomplished with standard fasteners. These small, hockey puck shaped antennas are less than 1.1” in height and 3.5” in diameter, minimizing the impact on UAV aerodynamics.

Ultra-Thin Peel & Stick Appliqué Antennas

The Pharad peel & stick appliqué antenna is unlike any other UAV antenna available, a result of the ingenuity of Pharad’s antenna design team. Pharad has developed a series of peel & stick appliqué antennas that are mounted to the UAV by simply adhering to the fuselage. They provide a high quality radiating solution while also being nearly as thin as a piece of paper, less than 10 mils thick. They are suitable for UAVs constructed from non-metallic, low-loss composites, such as fiberglass, Kevlar, polycarbonate, polyethylene, or other plastics. A durable one-time use pressure sensitive adhesive on one side of the radiator allows the Pharad peel & stick appliqué antenna to adhere to the UAV surface.