

# Auterion Awarded \$2M Contract by DIU to Enable Open Source on Drones and Strengthen PX4 Ecosystem

*April 29, 2019 - Mountain View, CA --* Auterion (<https://auterion.com>), the provider of Auterion Enterprise PX4, an open-source-based, enterprise operating system for drones, today announced it has been awarded a \$2M contract by the Defense Innovation Unit (DIU) to further enhance PX4 open source software. This is an effort by the U.S. Department of Defense to spur innovation in the PX4 ecosystem and compatibility standards in the drone industry.

PX4 is an open-source autopilot system for autonomous vehicles created by Auterion co-founder Lorenz Meier, and jointly developed by a global developer community. DIU identified the PX4 ecosystem as the key driver for innovation and standardization in the drone industry. Auterion was chosen as the trusted partner due to its leadership in the PX4 ecosystem and its significant legacy in PX4. Auterion builds an operating system based on top of PX4 for commercial and government drones.

The work will take place over a 12-month performance period, during which Auterion will accelerate open source projects with a focus on cybersecurity improvements, UX upgrades, communication protocols, and computer vision enhancements. The award to Auterion demonstrates interest by DoD in building these capabilities into the open source PX4 architecture.

“This project benefits the entire drone ecosystem and helps to reduce drone development costs, increase hardware interoperability, and enhance security and efficacy,” said Lorenz Meier, co-founder, Auterion. “We are proud to deliver standards that strengthen our collaborative partnerships, and this contract demonstrates the trust in our own heritage and open source as a whole.”

Work by Auterion will enable and promote the use of open source technologies in Western-made drones. The advancements will be open-sourced to benefit the drone industry at large, including government and commercial drone applications in inspection, surveying, mapping, and cargo, and will scale across a variety of hardware platforms.

**About DIU**

The Defense Innovation Unit (DIU) accelerates the adoption of commercial technology into the U.S. military to strengthen national security. For more information, visit: [www.diu.mil](http://www.diu.mil)

**About Auterion**

Auterion is a leading supplier of an open-source-based, enterprise operating system for drones. After co-founder Lorenz Meier created PX4, Pixhawk, MAVLink, and QGC (the most widely adopted and permissively licensed open-source projects in the drone industry), Auterion was founded to bring the best open-source technology to the drone industry by leveraging global industry standards. Based in Zurich, Switzerland, and backed by leading global VC funds, Auterion's mission is to maximize interoperability and security, while future-proofing and scaling drone operations for businesses. For more information visit: [www.auterion.com](http://www.auterion.com)

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