Recent weeks have seen a report from ASV Global, a leading manufacturer of Autonomous Surface Vehicles, that one unit has reached the landmark of 1000 days of unmanned operations.

This milestone was reached during the Unmanned Warrior 2016 naval presentation which saw more than 50 unmanned vehicles operating in a variety of themed activities. With this the Royal Navy was able to see first-hand how these types of systems and sensors could integrate into current and future operations.

A number of ASV Global developed vehicles and systems participated in the event including converted vessels such as BAE Systems’ Pacific 950 and Pacific 24 RIBs and Dstl’s Maritime Autonomy Surface Testbed (MAST) based on the innovative Bladerunner hull shape. The event also showcased vehicles designed and built by ASV Global including the commercial vehicle C-Worker 5 (illustrated) and the Thales’ mine countermeasures demonstrator platform known as Halcyon.

Dan Hook, Managing Director of ASV Global commented: ‘Completing 1000 days of unmanned operations during Unmanned Warrior, the world’s first large scale demonstration of maritime autonomous systems, could not have been more timely. This exemplifies the increasing speed of adoption of ASV technology and is a real testament to all of the hard work and dedication from the team.’

The 1000 days of unmanned operations cover a wide variety of applications that have been carried out by ASV Global platforms over the past six years. These applications include hydrography, oceanography, subsea-positioning, mine countermeasures, ISTAR* and naval gunnery training.

This figure of 1000 days only accounts for the amount of time that ASV Global has spent operating its own vehicles, and does not include the number of successful unmanned operations undertaken by its customers in the Republic of Korea, Japan and Singapore.

ASV Global designs, builds and operates ASVs on a global basis. In just six years, ASV Global has produced more than 80 vehicles and developed more than 30 different payload packages. The company has converted numerous existing vessels to operate autonomously using its proprietary ASView control
With offices in the UK, US and Brazil, ASV Global’s 75 employees support commercial, scientific, and military clients across the globe.

*Information, surveillance, target acquisition, and reconnaissance.*