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## TTD to Buy UAV for Tirumala Security

By B Murali | Published: 04th July 2014 07:30 AM | Last Updated: 04th July 2014 07:31 AM

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**TIRUMALA:** In what is seen as a step towards increasing surveillance on the hills of Tirumala, which is high on the radar of terror organisations, the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) security wing is going to purchase an unmanned aerial vehicle for homeland security and disaster management operations, if necessary. The unmanned aerial vehicle will be purchased from the DRDO authorised 'idea Forge'.

The UAV is a light weight vehicle with a four kilometre Line-of-Sight (LOS) range. The representatives of idea Forge held a demonstration of the gadget twice on Tirumala on Thursday. The gadget, named as 'NETRAv2,' is an updated version of NETRA.

A team of technicians and engineers held the demo before the Chief Vigilance and Security Officer G Srinivas. During the demo, the vehicle was sent to record the aerial view of Srivari Mettu from the HVGH area. It travelled up to 400 metre high and recorded four kilometres under its range.

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Later, the vehicle was flown from the Balaji Nagar area.

The company officials said the gadget would send real time aerial videos to its command control. It can take off within minutes, can take its flight from a limited space and can even return on its own. "The battery operated system sends videos with 10x zoom and picks up every thing with substantial quality," officials added.

The 90cm x 90cm vehicle weighs up to three kilograms and its flight endurance stands at about 40 minutes at MSL. It can also capture and send images through its day-light camera and Thermal Camera (for night vision). It is equipped with an in-built sensation radar.

According to technicians, the gadget will return to its landing area when its battery starts dying down. Even when there is a communication failure with the command centre, it returns it back home.

A state-of-the-art take off and landing facility with GPS navigation and position, easy operation with minimal training time are other features of the NETRAv2. Negotiations are underway to come to a conclusion on the price.

The cost of the gadget is said to be on the higher side as it has been made of bullet proof material, sources said. At present, more than hundred such gadgets are with the Indian Army, Navy and Air force, officials said.

The temple administration is planning to enhance the security of the Tirumala hill shrine in the wake of last year Operation Puttur, in which suspected terrorists were held. The terrorists, during their interrogation, had told the police that their target was Lord Venkateswara Brahmotsavams on Tirumala.

#### Salient Features

- Four km line-of-sight
- Video recording with 10x zoom
- Day-night camera, thermal camera
- Sensation radars
- Can take off from a limited area
- Can land at control base on its own
- Lands automatically when battery is about to die



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