



AEye Sets the Pace for Lidar Industry by Announcing Stratos™ Ultra-Long-Range Third Generation Lidar Capable of Detecting Objects at up to 1.5 Kilometers

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PLEASANTON, Calif.--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Jan. 5, 2026-- AEye, Inc. (Nasdaq: LIDR), a global leader in software-defined lidar solutions and the manufacturer of the Apollo lidar sensor, continues to set new standards in lidar detection with today's announcement of Stratos™, a new sensor that redefines the definition of "ultra-long-range" lidar. Capable of reliably detecting objects at distances of up to 1.5 kilometers, Stratos™ sets a new benchmark for performance, accuracy, and real-world deployment at a competitive price point.

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AEye's Stratos - Ultra-Long-Range and Ultra-Compact Lidar

scalable form factor. By extending reliable detection well beyond one kilometer, and at resolution greater than two times that of AEye's Apollo, Stratos™ enables earlier object recognition, improved situational awareness, and enhanced decision-making in complex, high-speed, and safety-critical environments.

Stratos™ delivers ultra-long-range sensing in a compact package not much larger than a typical smartphone. When placed behind the windshield in automotive and trucking applications, Stratos™ can detect objects at up to 500 meters. Its ability to detect objects at distances of up to 1.5 kilometers also enables critical applications in aviation, defense, and rail.

"Stratos™ represents a significant leap forward in long-range lidar capability, bringing the ultimate perception capability to the realm of physical AI," said Matt Fisch, CEO of AEye. "By extending detection out to 1.5 kilometers while maintaining precision and system efficiency in a small form factor, we're providing a cost disruptive solution that enables our customers to detect the smallest objects much earlier, react sooner, and operate more safely in real-world conditions, even at high speeds."

About AEye

AEye offers a suite of unique software-defined lidar solutions that address a wide range of real-world needs including advanced driver-assistance, vehicle autonomy, smart infrastructure, security, defense, and logistics applications. AEye's flagship product, Apollo, has been widely recognized for its small form factor and its ability to detect objects at up to one kilometer. In addition to Apollo, AEye also offers Stratos™ with the ability to detect objects at up to one-and-half kilometers as well as a full-stack solution through its OPTIS™ platform. OPTIS™ provides a complete system that captures a high-resolution 3D image of the world, interprets it, and provides direction to act upon what it sees in real-time.

Forward-Looking Statements

Certain statements included in this press release that are not historical facts are forward-looking statements within the meaning of the federal securities laws, including the safe harbor provisions under the United States Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Forward-looking statements are sometimes accompanied by words such as "believe," "continue," "project," "expect," "anticipate," "estimate," "intend," "strategy," "future," "opportunity," "predict," "plan," "may," "should," "will," "would," "potential," "seem," "seek," "outlook," and similar expressions that predict or indicate future events or trends, or that are not statements of historical matters. Forward-looking statements are predictions, projections, and other statements about future events that are based on current expectations and assumptions and, as a result, are subject to risks and uncertainties. Forward-looking statements included in this press release include statements about the range, resolution, and relative cost of AEye's new Stratos™ product offering, the potential use cases the Stratos™ product is anticipated to enable, and AEye's belief that Stratos sets a new benchmark for lidar performance, among others. These statements are based on various assumptions, whether or not identified in this press release. These forward-looking statements are provided for illustrative purposes only and are not intended to serve as and must not be relied on by an investor as a guarantee, an assurance, a prediction, or a definitive statement of fact or probability. Actual events and circumstances are very difficult or impossible to predict and will differ from the assumptions. Many actual events and circumstances are beyond the control of AEye. Many factors could cause actual future events to differ from the forward-looking statements in this press release, including, but not limited to: (i) the risks that reliable detection of objects at distances of up to 1.5 kilometers may not set nor remain a benchmark for performance, accuracy, and real-world deployment at a competitive price point due to unknown or future product releases by competitors, or otherwise; (ii) the risks that Stratos™ may not enable earlier object recognition, improve situational awareness, or enhance decision-making in complex, high-speed, and safety-critical environments to the extent anticipated, or at all; (iii) the risks that Stratos™ may not enable critical applications in aviation, defense, and rail to the extent or in the time frame anticipated, or at all; (iv) the risks that Stratos™ may not be a cost disruptive solution to the extent anticipated, or at all; (v) the risks that Stratos™ may not be able to detect all objects in all scenarios at distances of up to 1.5 kilometers; (vi) the risks that the lidar market may not continue to grow to the extent anticipated, or at all; (vii) the risks that lidar adoption may occur slower than anticipated or fail to occur at all; (viii) the risks that AEye's products may not meet the diverse range of performance and functional requirements of target markets and customers; (ix) the risks that AEye's products may not function as anticipated by AEye, or by target markets and customers; (x) the risks that AEye may not be in a position to adequately or timely address either the near or long-term opportunities that may or may not exist in the evolving autonomous transportation industry; (xi) the risks that laws and regulations are adopted impacting the use of lidar that AEye is unable to comply with, in whole or in part; (xii) the risks associated with changes in competitive and regulated industries in which AEye operates, variations in operating performance across competitors, and changes in laws and regulations affecting AEye's business; (xiii) the risks that AEye is unable to adequately implement its business plans, forecasts, and other expectations, and identify and realize additional opportunities; and (xiv) the risks of economic downturns and a changing regulatory landscape in the highly competitive and evolving industry in which AEye operates. These risks and uncertainties may be amplified by current or future global conflicts

Stratos™ is specifically designed to address the most demanding requirements by combining cutting-edge optics with a software-defined architecture to deliver high resolution and range in a compact and

and current and potential trade restrictions, trade tensions, and tariffs, all of which continue to cause economic uncertainty. You should carefully consider the foregoing factors and the other risks and uncertainties described in the "Risk Factors" section of the periodic report that AEye has most recently filed with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, or the SEC, and other documents filed by us or that will be filed by us from time to time with the SEC. These filings identify and address other important risks and uncertainties that could cause actual events and results to differ materially from those contained in the forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements speak only as of the date they are made.

Investors are cautioned not to put undue reliance on forward-looking statements; AEye assumes no obligation and does not intend to update or revise these forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events, or otherwise. AEye gives no assurance that AEye will achieve any of its expectations.

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