



Ouster Partners with Seneca to Advance Autonomous Drone Technology for Wildfire Response Operations

October 1, 2026

Ouster's REV8 OS1 Max native color digital lidar powers next-generation autonomous drones with enhanced 3D perception for safer, faster operations in complex wildfire environments

SAN FRANCISCO--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Oct. 1, 2026-- [Ouster, Inc.](#) (Nasdaq: OUST), a leader in sensing and perception for Physical AI, and [Seneca](#), an autonomous aviation company developing advanced drone technology to support wildfire response, today announced a partnership to integrate Ouster's Rev8 native color lidar into Seneca's autonomous drone platform.

This press release features multimedia. View the full release here: <https://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20261001404293/en/>



Ouster Rev8 OS1 Max digital lidar at the center of the Seneca Argo-1 mast

The collaboration combines Ouster's high-resolution, rugged Rev8 OS1 Max digital lidar with Seneca's autonomous drone platform to enhance perception, navigation, and

obstacle avoidance in demanding outdoor environments. By integrating the digital lidar into its perception stack, Seneca aims to enable its drones to operate safely at higher speeds across the three mission areas that define its platform: carrying heavy cargo to the fire line, following terrain for mapping and vegetation management, and inspecting structures and utility infrastructure. Longer range gives an aircraft more time to react to what is ahead, and 256 channels at up to 4K horizontal resolution hold that detail as speed increases.

Smoke, dust, rapidly changing terrain, and limited visibility make wildfire operations uniquely challenging for autonomous aircraft. Previously, Seneca relied on infrared sensors and cameras for collision avoidance, mapping, and object detection. With Ouster's Rev8 native color digital lidar, Seneca generates a precise 3D representation of its surroundings, delivering reliable navigation and environmental awareness whether a drone is hauling cargo, tracing a ridgeline, or inspecting a utility span in harsh and unpredictable conditions.

"Seneca's fire agency partners operate in some of the most unforgiving environments – obviously heat, but also sometimes extreme cold. Ouster Rev8 OS1 Max has been invaluable in minimizing concerns about sensor durability and performance," said Stuart Landesberg, CEO of Seneca. "Its IP68/IP69K rating, shock tolerance, and broad temperature range mean we can fly in conditions that would ground other platforms, meaning we can support firefighters, utilities, and communities on missions that were previously unsafe, inefficient, or impossible."

Seneca selected the Ouster Rev8 OS1 Max for its performance, its qualification from -40 °C to +85 °C for the range of conditions fire crews work in, responsive engineering support, and a product roadmap aligned with the future of autonomous systems. Ouster's NDA §164 and BABA-compliant digital lidar platform also supports Seneca's commitment to aircraft that are designed and assembled in America.

"Reliable lidar and perception technologies are the foundation of autonomous systems operating in the physical world," said Angus Pacala, CEO of Ouster. "Our digital lidar equips Seneca with accurate, real-time 3D perception data that enhances environmental awareness and supports safe, reliable autonomous flights for drone-based firefighting missions."

About Ouster

Ouster (Nasdaq: OUST) is a global leader in high-performance lidar sensors and intelligent software solutions that bring physical AI to life across the automotive, industrial, robotics, and smart infrastructure sectors. Ouster's technology delivers performance, reliability, and affordability to accelerate the adoption of autonomous systems at scale and drive meaningful improvements in safety, efficiency, and sustainability. Ouster is headquartered in San Francisco, CA, with offices in the Americas, Europe, and Asia-Pacific. For more information about our products, visit www.ouster.com, contact our [sales team](#), or connect with us on [X](#) or [LinkedIn](#).

About Seneca

Seneca builds advanced firefighting technology for situations that were previously unsafe, inefficient, or impossible. Based in Sausalito, California, the company develops autonomous heavy-lift drone systems that carry suppressant to the fire line, follow terrain for mapping and vegetation management, and inspect structures and utility infrastructure, with one pilot operating multiple aircraft. Seneca's systems are designed, built, and sourced in America, and serve fire agencies, utilities, and property owners. The company's mission is to protect 500 million acres in the U.S. and allied nations by 2035.

Forward-Looking Statements

This press release contains forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Ouster intends such forward-looking statements to be covered by the safe harbor provisions for forward-looking statements contained in Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. Such statements are based upon current plans, estimates and expectations of management that are subject to various risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ materially from such statements. The inclusion of forward-looking statements should not be regarded as a representation that such plans, estimates and expectations will be achieved. Words such as “anticipate,” “expect,” “intend,” “may,” “will,” “should,” “plan,” “could,” “estimate,” “possible,” “potential,” “pursue,” “likely,” and the negative of these terms and similar expressions are intended to identify forward-looking statements, though not all forward-looking statements use these words or expressions. All statements, other than statements of historical fact, including statements regarding the capabilities and benefits of Ouster’s products, including their reliability under rugged conditions in comparison to infrared sensors and cameras; Ouster’s future product offerings; uses for Physical AI; and expectations regarding customer demand for, and adoption of, Ouster’s BABA-compliant products. All forward-looking statements are subject to risks and uncertainties that may cause actual results to differ materially from those that we expected, including, but not limited to, Ouster’s ability to maintain BABA compliance for its product offerings; Ouster’s ability to manage growth, including the supply of BABA-compliant products; inaccurate forecasts of market growth and customer demand; product quality and liability risks; supply chain constraints; cancellation or postponement of contracts or unsuccessful implementations; risks related to the use of AI tools by us and others, including risks related to product performance, cybersecurity, and data privacy; Ouster’s ability to respond to evolving regulations and standards; and other important factors discussed in Ouster’s Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2025, and as may be further updated from time to time in Ouster’s Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q and other filings with the SEC. Readers are urged to consider these factors carefully and in the totality of the circumstances when evaluating these forward-looking statements, and not to place undue reliance on any of them. Any such forward-looking statements represent management’s reasonable estimates and beliefs as of the date of this press release. While Ouster may elect to update such forward-looking statements at some point in the future, it disclaims any obligation to do so, other than as may be required by law, even if subsequent events cause its views to change.

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