Drones at Scale: It's Time for Revenue

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Small UAV Coalition



SMALL UAV C O A L I T I O N A Partnership for Safety & Innovation



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SMALLUAV COALITION *A Partnership for Safety & Innovation*





Small UAV Coalition Members









Our Objectives

- The Small UAV Coalition recognizes that commercial applications of UAS technology represents the long-tail of the industry.
- We support and advocate for a range of law and policy changes that will not only embrace, but encourage, the growth of the industry, including:
 - Permitting operations of small UAVs beyond the visual line of sight, over people, and at night without a waiver/approval process.
 - Supporting the development of infrastructure to safely manage the widespread use of low-altitude airspace.
 - Embracing the carriage and delivery potential of UAS in a wide array of capacities, from humanitarian to commercial operations.
 - Enabling broader access to commercial mobile services and unlicensed spectrum.







Commercial Drone Applications

- Infrastructure
- Transport
- Insurance
- Media & Entertainment
- Telecommunications
- Agriculture
- Security
- Mining



Pictured: Aerobo, Flirtey, Kespry, PrecisionHawk







The Case for Scalability

- Technology continues to outpace regulation
 - Flirtey made first approved US drone delivery, delivering 24 packages of urgent medical supplies to clinic is rural Virginia in July 2015
 - Intel flew 100 drones simultaneously during choreographed light show in California in May 2016 and 300 drones for Super Bowl halftime show in February 2017
- Technology exists to safely implement operations at scale
- Slower regulatory pace delays vast economic benefit and job creation







Current Regulatory Landscape: Part 107

- Small commercial rule (Part 107) implemented August 2016
 - Operators must pass Aeronautical Knowledge Test
 - Maximum altitude of 400 ft AGL (except 400 feet above structures)
 - o 55 lb limit (not waivable)
- Waivers required for BVLOS, nighttime operations, OOP, and multiple UAS
 - No carriage of property permitted BVLOS or across state lines
 - Vast majority of waivers granted so far permit nighttime operations







Current Regulatory Landscape: DAC & UAST

- Drone Advisory Committee (DAC)
 - Multistakeholder group
 - Tasked with identifying and proposing actions to the FAA to address issues affecting UAS integration into the NAS
 - Three task groups under DAC Subcommittee: Airspace Access, Roles and Responsibilities (preemption), and Budget Costs and Resources
- Unmanned Aircraft Safety Team (UAST)
 - Data-driven, consensus-based group
 - Tasked with analyzing safety data and developing non-regulatory interventions to mitigate potential causes of accidents involving UAS







Looking Ahead



- Elaine Chao selected to lead the Department of Transportation
 - Labor Secretary under President George W. Bush
 - Deputy secretary of Transportation under President George H.W. Bush
 - Married to Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY)
- Ongoing communication with incoming Administration officials
- Opportunity to pursue light regulatory touch to enable innovation & place America in leading position internationally







Looking Ahead: FAA Reauthorization

- 2017 Coalition Priorities:
 - Streamlining existing waiver and authorization processes
 - Education and training
 - Expediting development and implementation of UTM framework
 - Authorizing widespread UAS carriage and delivery
 - Securing a national standard for state and local UAS laws and regulations







Looking Ahead: Operations Over People

- FAA to publish NPRM for OOP
 - o Originally scheduled for release by end of 2016
 - Requires approval from DOT Secretary Chao under Presidential Memorandum
 - Expect authorization of OOP with certain performance standards and operational limitations
 - If case by case FAA approval, no better than an exemption or waiver process
 - o Ideally, would only require a safety risk self-assessment, not subject to FAA review and approval
 - Implications of "2-for-1" Executive Order?
- Potentially informed by the 2016 Micro UAS ARC Report
 - Relied primarily on manufacturer certifications and consensus industry performance standards
 - Uses kinetic energy (weight and speed) as critical factor







For More Information:

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