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**NASA, FAA Conduct Drone Management Test.**

[Aviation International News](http://mailview.bulletinmedia.com/mailview.aspx?m=2016042501aiaa&r=2980706-a326&l=014-f60&t=c) (4/24) reports in continuing coverage that NASA on April 19 conducted simultaneous tests of multiple drones at six FAA-sponsored ranges throughout the United States. Mathew Nelson, one of the UAS pilots at the Texas site, said, “Using a traffic management framework to separate the aircraft and provide position awareness to air traffic control or to a mission commander helps us provide space between manned aircraft and unmanned aircraft and actually promotes the safety of integrating those two into the airspace.”

***NASA Has 24 Drones In Air Simultaneously.***[RT](http://mailview.bulletinmedia.com/mailview.aspx?m=2016042501aiaa&r=2980706-a326&l=015-89b&t=c) (4/21) reports NASA was testing drones simultaneously in “Alaska, Maryland, Nevada, New York, North Dakota and Virginia,” with the FAA having “up to 24 drones in the air at the same time during the testing.” [Engadget](http://mailview.bulletinmedia.com/mailview.aspx?m=2016042501aiaa&r=2980706-a326&l=016-f10&t=c" \t "_blank) (4/24) also reports on the story.

**Senate Version Of FAA Reauthorization Act Would Add Regulatory Harmony To UAS Rules Nationally.**

The [National Law Review](http://mailview.bulletinmedia.com/mailview.aspx?m=2016042501aiaa&r=2980706-a326&l=037-786&t=c) (4/23) reported on the FAA Reauthorization Act passed overwhelmingly by the Senate on April 19. SB 2658 is only “a stopgap measure that greenlights $33 billion for FAA programs through fiscal year 2017,” but it “brings the U.S. one step closer to integrating unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) into the nation’s airspace” by preempting certain local and state rules on UAS operation.

***Kansas Businesses Lag Neighboring States In FAA Exemptions To Fly Drones.***The [AP](http://mailview.bulletinmedia.com/mailview.aspx?m=2016042501aiaa&r=2980706-a326&l=03a-490&t=c) (4/23) reported that a review of FAA-issued Section 333 exemptions for commercial UAS operation by the Association for Unmanned Vehicle Systems International (AUVSI) has found that 24 businesses in Kansas have received permission to start operating. The number is not as high as “some businesses” would like, given that neighboring Colorado has 98 businesses granted Section 333 exemptions, Missouri 41 businesses with exemptions, and Oklahoma 47. Nebraska is Kansas’ only neighboring state with fewer exemptions granted, 17, but businesses in Wichita, Kansas “think it will take time for Kansas businesses to demand drone use.”

**Arizona Lawmakers Hope To Attract Amazon Drones.**

The [Arizona Republic](http://mailview.bulletinmedia.com/mailview.aspx?m=2016042501aiaa&r=2980706-a326&l=03b-c4b&t=c) (4/22) reports Arizona lawmakers are trying to pass new drone legislation in an effort to lure Amazon and Google to bring commercial drones to the state. Although city leaders are not yet on board with the legislation, “most other affected parties support” Senate Bill 1449, which would prevent municipal governments from enacting their own drone regulations. State Sen. John Kavanagh (R-Fountain Hills), the bill’s sponsor, said businesses asked him to sponsor the bill out fears that each city would have its own drone restrictions. He added, “The drone bill is attempting to thread the needle between not stopping commercial enterprises from providing very fast and very inexpensive drone deliveries to our residents while at the same time protecting the privacy of residents from unreasonable breaches and harassment.” Attorney and drone lobbyist Seth Schuknecht said Amazon and other companies are more likely to test drones in states where drone regulations already have been established.

**Man Sentenced For Smuggling Drugs Via Drone**

The [Los Angeles Times](http://mailview.bulletinmedia.com/mailview.aspx?m=2016042501aiaa&r=2980706-a326&l=03c-a03&t=c) (4/21) reported that U.S. District Court Judge Gonzalo Curiel sentenced Brayan Valle to three years in prison for operating a remote-controlled drone to smuggle 30 pounds of heroin into the U.S. from Mexico. While Valle’s was the first drug-carrying drone caught along the Southwest border, two more have been intercepted since then. Border Patrol agents observed Valle loading the drugs into a truck. Meanwhile, the low carrying capacity of drones has raised doubts “as to how popular the smuggling method could become.”

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**University Of Florida Uses Brainwaves To Race UAVs.**

[TechCrunch](http://mailview.bulletinmedia.com/mailview.aspx?m=2016042601aiaa&r=2980706-d7a1&l=00d-2e3&t=c) (4/25) reports that last week, and for the first time, researchers at the University of Florida used brain-computer interface (BCI) technology to control a group of DJI Phantom UAVs. The article explains that with the aid of BCI software, which has helped some paralyzed patients control prosthetic limbs, “16 pilots used their brainwaves to fly drones down a 10-yard indoor course.” The article features a video of the race and notes that while “brain-controlled drones” are not yet quite “ready for the raceway,” with technological progress, BCI technology may eventually become a part of people’s daily lives.

**Drone Uses Neutron Beam To Detect Explosives.**

[Digital Trends](http://mailview.bulletinmedia.com/mailview.aspx?m=2016042601aiaa&r=2980706-d7a1&l=00e-758&t=c) (4/25) reports researchers at the University of Wisconsin at Madison’s Fusion Technology Institute developed technology to detect explosives by having a drone shoot out a small stream of neutrons to look for signatures of explosive material or other objects. National Nuclear Security Administration chief Col. John W. Weidner said, “In a very practical manner, I think this can be a tremendous tool,” adding, “From what I’ve read, its applications are only limited by the imagination of the user.”

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**Google Awarded New Delivery Drone Patent.**

[Quartz](http://mailview.bulletinmedia.com/mailview.aspx?m=2016042701aiaa&r=2980706-77aa&l=015-4c2&t=c) (4/26) examines a patent awarded to Google on April 25 that would allow a delivery drone to hover over a delivery target and lower the package using a tether. When the package has been placed on its destination, the drone would detach and retract the tether cable. Quartz highlights the patent’s mention of how the drone would interact with humans, potentially warning them, “Caution: Stay back,” or chiming in with “Delivery complete.”

**Chinese Startup Set To Roll Out Autonomous UAVs.**

[Bloomberg News](http://mailview.bulletinmedia.com/mailview.aspx?m=2016042701aiaa&r=2980706-77aa&l=016-726&t=c) (4/26) reports that China-based UAV startup Zero Zero Robotics is planning to soon launch its Hover Camera UAV, an autonomous flying gadget that “picks out individuals and shadows them on command, capturing every movement with 4K videos and photos via a 13-megapixel camera.” The article mentions that the Hover Camera, set to cost under $600 when released later this year, is “part of a wave of affordable drones and cars that incorporate learning machines into real-world devices rather than software like Apple’s Siri personal assistant.” According to Marcus Hutter, professor at the Australian National University, autonomous devices and software “will be the biggest revolution in the next 20 to 30 years, far out-weighing the industrial revolution.”

**Louisiana Lawmakers Looking To Regulate UAVs.**

The [Charlotte (NC) Observer](http://mailview.bulletinmedia.com/mailview.aspx?m=2016042701aiaa&r=2980706-77aa&l=035-888&t=c) (4/26) reports that legislators in Louisiana are engaged in an bipartisan effort to regulate UAVs, noting that several proposals under consideration in the state legislature “would criminalize drone trespassing, outline surveillance and privacy laws and establish registration and licensing guidelines.” State Senator Dan Claitor explained that UAVs are “showing up on people’s radar better now” as use of the technology has grown more widespread. While highlighting the measures, the article notes that supporters “say creation of statewide drone regulations will secure public and private property,” and most of the proposals “have met little resistance so far, though none have reached final passage.”

**NASA, FAA Complete Most Complex Drone Traffic Management Test, Juggling 22 Drones At Once**

By Menchie Mendoza, Tech Times | April 26, 8:29 AM

NASA successfully flew 22 drones during a simultaneous testing at FAA test sites across the country. The demonstration, which is the first and largest ever launched, is meant to assess NASA's Unmanned Aircraft System Traffic Management (UTM) research platform used in rural operations.

The three-hour test involved a total of 24 drones, of which 22 were flying simultaneously at one point. NASA's UTM research platform checked for conflicts during the flight, gave approval or rejections to flight plans and delivered notifications on constraints to the users. Likewise, engineers at NASA's Ames Research Center were tasked with operations and system load monitoring as well as qualitative feedback gathering in order to identify capability gaps to further refine the UTM research. <http://www.techtimes.com/articles/153441/20160426/nasa-faa-complete-most-complex-drone-traffic-management-test-juggling-22-drones-at-once.htm>

**PVCC, first responders partner to research, train on use of drones**

Posted: Monday, April 25, 2016 7:10 pm BY DEREK QUIZON

The department is one of many Central Virginia emergency response agencies benefitting from a new partnership with Piedmont Virginia Community College. PVCC has been authorized by the Federal Aviation Administration to conduct research on the use of unmanned drones for public safety. Next month, PVCC will offer its first drone operation course, taught by Goodbar and geared toward emergency responders.

Search and rescue will be the main focus of PVCC’s research and training efforts. Local authorities have taken special interest in the use of drones for search and rescue since the 2014 search for missing University of Virginia student Hannah Graham. Drones lent by Virginia Tech proved useful during the search, said Charles Werner, former Charlottesville fire chief and a member of the sheriff’s volunteer office. <http://www.dailyprogress.com/news/local/pvcc-first-responders-partner-to-research-train-on-use-of/article_f91f4c72-0b3a-11e6-971e-3b90f7a105c3.html>

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**UK Government Says UAV Unlikely To Have Hit British Airways Jet Near Heathrow.**

[BBC News (UK)](http://mailview.bulletinmedia.com/mailview.aspx?m=2016042801aiaa&r=2980706-fe99&l=01c-f15&t=c) (4/28) reports that according to the UK government, a British Airways jet thought to have been hit during its approach to Heathrow Airport may not have been struck by a UAV after all. On Thursday, Transport Secretary Patrick McLoughlin told British Members of Parliament that the incident is no longer believed to have involved a UAV. The article notes an investigation was launched following the incident on April 17, adding that it “was thought to be the first drone collision with an aircraft in the UK.”

        The [AP](http://mailview.bulletinmedia.com/mailview.aspx?m=2016042801aiaa&r=2980706-fe99&l=01d-78b&t=c) adds the UK’s Air Accidents Investigation Branch “said Thursday that it had ended its investigation into the incident,” stating, “We made initial inquiries but there was insufficient information on what object was involved for us to take it further.”

**University Of Florida Enabling Brain-Controlled UAV Races.**

In continuing coverage, [Mashable](http://mailview.bulletinmedia.com/mailview.aspx?m=2016042801aiaa&r=2980706-fe99&l=01e-fa0&t=c) (4/27) reports the Human-Experience Research Lab (HXRL) at the University of Florida claims to have created the first brain-controlled UAV race. The article explains that by utilizing Emotiv brain computer interface (BCI) technology, “the racers must focus on a graphic in a software program and attempt to think of pushing that graphic forward, thus producing electrical signals that affect the trajectory of the drone.” According to the article, given the increasing popularity of UAVs, the use of the technology, which is still in an infant stage, can be expected to grow.

**Drone Traffic Control System Lauded.**

[Government Computer News](http://mailview.bulletinmedia.com/mailview.aspx?m=2016042801aiaa&r=2980706-fe99&l=01f-705&t=c) (4/27) reports in continuing coverage about the FAA and NASA tests involving 22 drones across six different FAA test sites. NASA’s Safe Autonomous Systems Operations project manager Parimal Kopardekar said, “This test would not have been possible without the six FAA test sites – it was a collaborative effort to ensure a successful test.” Nevada Advanced Autonomous Systems Innovation Center chief engineer Richard C. Kelley said, “The software performed wonderfully, providing much-needed data and pointing toward open questions for the research community to address as we work to safely integrate unmanned aircraft into the National Airspace System.”

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**Flirtey Drone Added To Smithsonian.**

[MarketWatch](http://mailview.bulletinmedia.com/mailview.aspx?m=2016042901aiaa&r=2980706-4f97&l=011-c3f&t=c) (4/28) reports Flirtey made the first FAA-approved drone delivery in the US, and now the drone used for the delivery will be on display at the Smithsonian Institution’s National Air and Space Museum. The article mentions that Amazon is interested in drone delivery.