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## **7-Eleven, Flirtey Complete First Customer Drone Delivery In US.**

The [Dallas Morning News](#) (7/22) reported that 7-Eleven announced on Friday that it had successfully completed a drone delivery from one of its convenience stores in Reno, Nevada. The retailer and its partner, independent drone delivery service Flirtey, said that the July 11 test constituted the first time a customer in the US has received a home delivery via drone. The article notes that the products delivered included “Slurpee drinks, a chicken sandwich, donuts, hot coffee and candy.”

[TIME](#) (7/22) reported that 7-Eleven and Flirtey said that two drone flights were required to deliver all of the products ordered. The article explains that the unmanned aerial vehicle “flew autonomously for one mile from the 7-Eleven store in Reno on July 11 to the family’s house using GPS.” Once the drone had reached its delivery destination, “it hovered above while lowering the container to the family’s backyard using a rope.” The recipient of the delivery said, “The convenience of having access to instant, 24/7 drone delivery is priceless,” adding, “It’s amazing that a flying robot just delivered us food and drinks in a matter of minutes.”

## **R4 Robotics Tests Roller UAS.**

The [AP](#) (7/22) reported R4 Robotics tested its R4 Roller UAS at the Alpena County Regional Airport in Michigan on Thursday. The UAS, which can “fly, climb structures and roll across the ground,” is designed for “law enforcement, military and utilities.” Northern Michigan Unmanned Aerial Systems Consortium CEO Jim Makowske said the area is “positioned to take our portion of this emerging industry.”

## **Police UAS To Enter Service On Long Island.**

[Newsday \(NY\)](#) (7/24) reports law enforcement UAS will soon be in use by Nassau and Suffolk County police departments for applications such as hostage standoffs, search and rescue operations, and photographing of crime and crash scenes. According to Acting Nassau Police Commissioner Thomas Krumpter, the UAS “will have a positive impact and [are] a great tool for the law enforcement community”; however, civil liberties groups are concerned the UAS will be used “to skirt privacy laws and conduct warrantless surveillance from above.”

## **US Judge Rules Against Drone Hobbyist Who Strapped Glock, Flamethrower To Drone.**

[Digital Trends](#) (7/23) reported on the US District Court ruling in Connecticut that affirmed the FAA’s authority over US airspace against the argument from Austin and Bret Haughwot that the agency cannot regulate drones. Austin Haughwot, Bret’s son, had made a YouTube video showing his UAV equipped with a gun, but when the “FAA sent the Haughwots administrative subpoenas looking for a number of records, including accounting of any money they might have earned from the YouTube video,” the elder Haughwot refused. The younger Haughwot made another YouTube video, this one demonstrating the roasting power of a flamethrower attached to a UAV, which again became the subject of FAA subpoenas. In his ruling, the judge said that, no matter whether a UAV legally counts as an aircraft or not, “the FAA has a legitimate purpose at the least to acquire more information by means of investigation in order to assess in the first instance whether the devices are within the scope of its authority to regulate.”

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## **Solar Impulse 2 Completes Global Circumnavigation Trip, Demonstrates Potential Of Clean Energy Aviation.**

The AP (7/25) reports that on Tuesday, Solar Impulse 2 became the first aircraft to circumnavigate the globe by solely using solar energy as it landed in Abu Dhabi, “where it first took off on an epic 25,000-mile (40,000-kilometer) journey

that began more than a year ago.” After landing the aircraft, pilot Bertrand Piccard “was greeted outside the cockpit by his Solar Impulse partner and fellow pilot Andre Borschberg.” Speaking to a crowd gathered at the airport where the aircraft landed, Piccard said, “The future is clean. The future is you. The future is now. Let’s take it further.” In a prior statement this week, Borschberg said, “By flying around the world thanks to renewable energy and clean technologies, we have demonstrated that we can now make our world more energy efficient.” **Not UAS or SmallSat, but an important milestone.**

## **Amazon Announces Expanded Drone Delivery Tests In The UK.**

The New York Times (7/25, Subscription Publication) reports that Amazon and the British government have partnered “to significantly expand drone testing, a move that could allow the devices to deliver packages to British homes far earlier than in the United States.” While the FAA prohibits companies from piloting drones beyond an operator’s line of sight, the UK Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) will permit the online retailer to test various aspects of drone delivery in suburban and rural areas, including flight beyond the operator’s line of sight. The Times adds that the tests will begin immediately, and “are an important sign of confidence in Britain after its historic [Brexit] vote last month.” The partnership “puts pressure on the F.A.A.,” which has declined Amazon’s and other companies’ requests “to advance their delivery plans.”

The Seattle Times (7/25) reports that in addition to testing flight beyond an operator’s line of sight, Amazon will test its sense-and-avoid technology and instances where a single operator simultaneously pilots multiple drones. Amazon called the new tests “groundbreaking,” and a major step on the path to 30-minute Prime Air deliveries. Amazon said in a statement that the tests will allow the company and regulators to “understand how drones can be used safely and reliably in the logistics industry. It also will help identify what operating rules and safety regulations will be needed to help move the drone industry forward.”

## **University of North Dakota Dedicating Facility For Aerospace, Drone Studies.**

The AP (7/25) reports that the University of North Dakota (UND) is opening a new 66,000-square-foot building named Robin Hall dedicated to “aerospace-related studies and drone research.” The article explains that Robin Hall will host UND’s Center of Excellence for Unmanned Aircraft Systems and will be managed by the Aerospace Foundation, “the private-sector support arm of UND Aerospace.” The ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new facility will be held on Tuesday morning on the UND campus. **North Dakota is apparently the place to be for UAS development.**

## **Interior Department Launches System To Keep Drones Away From Wildfires.**

The AP (7/25) reports that the Department of the Interior (DOI) launched a new pilot project on Monday that relies on “a smartphone app and real-time wildfire information to create virtual boundaries, or geofences, that drones can’t cross.” According to the article, officials say that drones interfering with firefighting aircraft could have disastrous consequences. Director of DOI’s Office of Aviation Services Mark Bathrick said in a statement, “We believe this program, which uses the global positioning system to create a virtual barrier, will move us one step closer to eliminating this problem for wildfire managers.” The article notes that DOI developed the system in partnership with DJI, AirMap, and Skyward. In a statement, DJI Vice President of Policy and Legal Affairs Brendan Schulman said, “This enhancement...will help prevent DJI drones from inadvertently taking off within, or flying into, a wildfire location without authorization.”

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## Queensland government to inject AU\$1m into drone technology

The Queensland government has partnered with The Boeing Company to develop and test remotely piloted aircraft technologies for adoption by primary industries and the telecommunications sector.

The Queensland government has announced a AU\$1 million investment in remotely piloted aircraft (RPA) technology, expected to benefit the LNG, agriculture, mining, energy, telecommunications, search and rescue, and environmental management industries. In addition to the cash injection, the state government has partnered with aerospace giant The Boeing Company, in conjunction with Boeing subsidiary Insitu Pacific, Shell's QGC project, and Telstra to further the drone research.

Local small to medium-sized businesses specialising in related technology such as aerial photography, surveying, product development, and training for drone operators will also be consulted as part of the venture. "The project aims to capitalise on the capabilities inherent in drones to carry out remote-monitoring and inspection of key infrastructure and data analysis to allow for better decision-making," Queensland Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk said in a statement.

<http://www.zdnet.com/article/queensland-government-to-inject-au1m-into-drone-technology/>

## AUVSI's Wynne to speak on small UAS rule at Oshkosh

*AUVSI Advocacy (7/126/2016)*

Unmanned aircraft systems will be among the topics discussed this week when more than 550,000 aviation enthusiasts meet in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, for the annual [AirVenture](#), hosted by the Experimental Aircraft Association. AUVSI President and CEO Brian Wynne and Earl Lawrence, director of the office of unmanned aircraft systems at the Federal Aviation Administration, will speak at the air show in Oshkosh, where the [Aerospace States Association](#) is also holding part of its annual meeting. They will review the implementation of Part 107, the small UAS rule, and how it will permit commercial UAS operations.

Last week, AUVSI announced a partnership with ASA to work with its members, which are primarily state lieutenant governors, to help enable the infrastructure and public policy needed to expand the UAS industry across the nation. <http://www.eaa.org/en/airventure>

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## General Atomics Opens Flight Training Academy In North Dakota.

The [AP](#) (7/27) reports that defense contractor General Atomics Aeronautical Systems has opened a flight academy at the Grand Sky drone park in Grand Forks, North Dakota, "much to the delight of state officials who have pumped millions of dollars into promoting drones." On Wednesday, General Atomics Director of International Programs Dan Fritz said that North Dakota's open and unrestricted airspace provided a remarkable opportunity for the company, adding, "What we're doing up there really is groundbreaking." Noting that North Dakota has invested \$34 million in drone projects and education in recent years, the AP highlights that Gov. Jack Dalrymple said about the new academy, "This is the next important step in an emerging, evolving story," adding, "Now we have reached a critical mass where the investments are coming to us." **North Dakota is clearly becoming the center of the drone world.**

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## **SZ DJI Technology Increases Focus On Commercial Drones.**

[Bloomberg BusinessWeek](#) (7/28) reports on drone maker SZ DJI Technology's increasing focus on corporate customers, after accounting for roughly half of the US consumer drone market. To cater to commercial users, DJI has been adding new features and working with Android and iOS developers. That is in the context of the FAA preparing "to ease restrictions on commercial unmanned aircraft weighing less than 55 pounds."