

1Aug16

Relaxed FAA Regs Expected To Encourage Significant Rise In Commercial Drone Use.

The [Toledo \(OH\) Blade](#) (7/31) reports that later this month, the FAA “will scrap the rules” that “required drone pilots to secure a special waiver from the agency and have a valid pilot’s license,” opting instead to “require only a background check and a remote pilot certificate.” Although the new rules will apply only to the “daylight operation of drones weighing 55 pounds or less and require pilots to keep the craft below 400 feet in the air at speeds below 100 mph,” the change is hailed as “an important first step toward fully integrating unmanned aircraft into the nation’s airspace.”

California Regulators May Not Move On Drones Anytime Soon.

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (7/31) reports that as aerial drones become more common, governments want to set boundaries, but in California’s current legislative session, drone manufacturers and trade associations defeated several bills they contended would hinder innovation. “We want to solve problems and address concerns, but to do it in a way that is constantly clear across the country,” said Brendan Schulman, vice president at DJI Technology Co., the world’s largest drone maker. “Otherwise, it will be too confusing for commercial users and consumers to understand what the rules are when they travel from place to place.” According to the Times, in the absence of state regulation and with the FAA slow to release federal rules, cities are implementing their own rules to prevent hobbyists from doing harm.

2Aug16

microdrones Demonstrates Water Rescue Tactics with Drones

1

Aug 2016

microdrones has collaborated with the DLRG Horneburg/Altes Land e.V. (German Lifeguard Association) to simulate a mission to rescue a drowning swimmer, demonstrating the life-saving potential of a tactic that combines unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) and a compact rescue device called RESTUBE. Crowds watched from the banks of the Elbe River as the UAV rapidly flew to the person in distress and dropped the RESTUBE, which automatically inflated. The swimmer was able to grab onto the RESTUBE and float until they could be reached by a human lifeguard and brought back to safety.

The UAV used in the rescue was the microdrones md4-1000. This quadcopter drone features specially developed motors, carbon fiber housing, highly efficient batteries, and an integrated GPS system that allow the UAV to fly and stay in position in strong winds over the water. md4-1000 was equipped with an imaging camera that streamed live to the specially trained lifeguard operating the drone, allowing them to easily see the precise location to drop the RESTUBE flotation device.

http://www.unmannedsystemstechnology.com/2016/08/microdrones-demonstrates-water-rescue-tactics-with-drones/?utm_source=Unmanned+Systems+Technology+Newsletter&utm_campaign=3394cf8c01-Unmanned_Systems_Technology_eBrief&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_6fc3c01e8d-3394cf8c01-111778317

General Atomics Conducts First Predator Flight at UAS Training Academy

Published: 29 Jul 2016

General Atomics Aeronautical Systems, Inc. has announced the successful first flight of a company-owned Predator A at the company’s new Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) Flight Training Academy in Grand Forks, North Dakota. “GA-ASI’s Flight Training Academy adds another layer to the good work happening at Grand Sky business and

aviation park,” said Hoeven. “Right here in North Dakota, we’re leading the way in UAS research and development as well as the training of the pilots of the future. We’ve worked to make the Grand Forks region a hub for UAS innovations, and with industry leaders like GA-ASI, Grand Sky is paving the way in UAS development.”

Classroom and simulator instruction will take place at Training Academy classroom facilities located in the city of Grand Forks. Flight Instruction will occur at temporary facilities located at the Grand Sky UAS business and aviation park adjacent to Grand Forks Air Force Base. Construction of a state-of-the-art, 16,000 square-foot Flight Operations Center began in November 2015 and is expected to conclude in Spring 2017. The Academy will operate year-round, create many new jobs in North Dakota, offer multiple courses, and provide training for dozens of students at a time.

http://www.unmannedsystemstechnology.com/2016/07/general-atomics-conducts-first-predator-flight-at-uas-training-academy/?utm_source=Unmanned+Systems+Technology+Newsletter&utm_campaign=3394cf8c01-Unmanned+Systems+Technology+eBrief&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_6fc3c01e8d-3394cf8c01-111778317

Harnessing the Potential of Unmanned Aircraft Systems Technology

AUGUST 2, 2016 AT 6:39 AM ET BY TED WACKLER, EVAN COOKE, AND TERAH LYONS

Today, the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) is hosting a workshop on Drones and the Future of Aviation—the first-ever event of its kind at the White House—to advance and celebrate the potential of unmanned aircraft systems (UAS), or drones. The event will gather experts from government, industry and the academic research community in order to accelerate opportunities and address challenges posed by this emerging technology.

OSTP also announced a series of actions, sustained by public and private support, to promote the safe integration and innovative adoption of unmanned aircraft systems across the United States. These announcements include actions that expand the Federal Government’s capacity to use unmanned aircraft operations to advance agency and department missions and accelerate research discoveries related to airspace integration, state government commitments to support an emerging unmanned aircraft industry, and private actions to enhance mobility, expand participation, and promulgate privacy best practices, including:

- \$35 million in research funding by the National Science Foundation (NSF) over the next five years to accelerate the understanding of how to intelligently and effectively design, control, and apply UAS to beneficial applications. This will include areas such as monitoring and inspection of physical infrastructure, smart disaster response, agricultural monitoring, the study of severe storms, and more;
- A broad range of actions by the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) to use UAS to support search and rescue operations, to augment manned aircraft operations, and improve government processes around technological adoption;
- A \$5 million down-payment by the state of New York to support the growth of the emerging unmanned aircraft systems industry across New York; and
- A collective commitment made by UAS industry associations to implement a broad educational effort around privacy best practices for users of UAS technology, among other private-sector commitments to support UAS technologies.

https://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2016/08/02/harnessing-potential-unmanned-aircraft-systems-technology?utm_source=email&utm_medium=email&utm_content=email-text1&utm_campaign=drones

3Aug16

DJI Flying Arena Coming to Korea in August AUVSI News posted 2 days ago

Starting in August, citizens in Korea will be able to fly unmanned aerial vehicles in a brand new arena created by Chinese tech company DJI. The arena, which will be located in the city of Yongin, will give amateurs the opportunity to learn how to fly and operate UAS and give experienced flyers the opportunity to improve upon their skills. Experienced flyers will also have the chance to race their UAS inside of the arena. Some of the amenities inside of the arena will include safety nets, an LED-lit circuit and a LCD-TV that will allow for a first-person point of view from the drone while flying. People will also be able to perform small repairs to their UAS in a maintenance room.

<http://www.auvsi.org/blogs/auvsi-news/2016/08/01/dji-flying-arena-coming-to-korea-in-august>

White House Launches Effort To Expand Domestic Drone Use.

[The Hill](#) (8/2) reports that at a White House conference on Tuesday, the Obama Administration revealed that it is spearheading a new effort to expand domestic drone use, “which includes boosting funding for research, directing federal agencies to use the technology for department missions and teeing up new rules for flying drones over crowds.” According to the article, the White House is looking to build on its prior efforts to integrate drones into US airspace, “following on the heels of its first major rule permitting small commercial drone use in June.”

[USA Today](#) (8/2) adds that at the conference, FAA Administrator Michael Huerta disclosed that 520,000 drone operators have registered with the US government since December. Additionally, while remarking on the booming private drone market, which is expected to generate \$82 billion in revenue by 2025, Huerta said, “We need to incorporate unmanned aircraft and their users into our culture of safety and responsibility,” but emphasized that “we need to do it in a way that doesn’t stifle the enthusiasm for this growing industry.”

ABC News: NOAA: Drone Technology Aids Whale Research off Hawaii

Posted on auvsadmin in Environmental Protection, News, Spotlight on Programs, Uncategorized on July 30, 2016

Federal researchers returning from a 30-day expedition to study whales and dolphins around the Hawaiian Islands said they are looking for clues to help sustain healthy populations of the marine mammals. The researchers worked from a large ship, instead of using their normally small survey boats, and explored the coasts of the main Hawaiian Islands where wind conditions and severe weather make it difficult to navigate and remain at sea for extended periods of time.

The team also used a hexacopter drone to photograph the whales and dolphins, something they have never done before in this region. Using drones allows researchers to get better images of groups of whales because they are not disturbed by the approaching boat, said NOAA’s Erin Oleson, who led the expedition. The vantage point of the drone also allowed them to more accurately count the number of individuals in a pod, including mothers and calves that sometimes stay underwater. The number of calves helps researchers gauge the whale’s reproductive health. The perspective also allows the scientists to get more accurate size estimates for individual whales.

<http://increasinghumanpotential.org/abc-news-noaa-drone-technology-aids-whale-research-off-hawaii/>

4Aug16

Google Parent To Start Testing Delivery Drones In US.

In continuing coverage, [The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (8/3) reports that Google’s parent company, Alphabet, will soon begin experimenting with its Project Wing delivery drones after being granted approval by the White House on Tuesday. Alphabet will perform its tests at one of six FAA-designated testing locations within the US as part of a government effort “to promote research into unmanned flight and safety legislation.” In a statement, the White House said,

“Project Wing is planning for the testing to include operations with external cargo loads and to build towards beyond line of sight capabilities. The company will also begin to develop and deploy an open-interface, airspace management solution for safe low-altitude small UAS operations using existing low cost, scalable communication and information technologies.”

DJI To Open Drone Arena In South Korea.

[The Verge](#) (8/3) reports that DJI is “expanding its consumer outreach” with the launch of its first-ever “drone arena” later this month in Yongin, South Korea. The China-based drone manufacturer said that the 1,395-square-meter indoor venue will be outfitted with safety nets, an LED-light circuit, and support for first-person-perspective flight operations. DJI South Korea Manager Moon Tae-hyun explained that DJI wants to make drones “more accessible and easier to learn,” and that the arena can be booked by both individuals and by groups.

[Digital Trends](#) (8/3) adds that in a press release, DJI said that for skilled operators and drone clubs, “the arena can also offer the stage for more advanced flying experiences and drone racing.”

5Aug16

Zipline To Begin UAS Deliveries Of Blood And Medicine To Remote US Communities.

[Business Insider](#) (8/3) reports the California-based startup Zipline will begin using UAS to deliver blood and medications to remote areas of the US, after piloting the program in Rwanda for several years. The program will deliver to remote communities in Maryland, Nevada, and Washington, including some American Indian reservations. Business Insider also ran highlights from a detailed UAS report by BI Intelligence that forecasts sales revenue for consumer, enterprise, and military UAS, and projects the growth of UAS shipments.