UAS Test Site
Request for Comments Webinars

April 10th 10:00-12:00
April 11th 14:00-16:00
(Eastern Time)
Overview

• Introduction
• Review of FAA Modernization & Reform Act of 2012 – UAS Test Sites
• Review of FAA Request for Comments (RFC) – Federal Register
• Timeline
• Q&A Session
Introduction

• Welcome Webinar participants
  – This is a public webinar. Please be advised that media are participating and all statements are considered on the record

• Discuss test sites only
  – We will not be addressing any specific FAA operational policies or rules for UAS

• One question at a time
  – No statements
  – The moderator reserves the right to limit statements

• Speakers should announce their name and organization prior to speaking. This includes anyone asking questions.

• Comments received during the Webinar will not be considered, you must still submit your comments to the RFC in writing
FAA Modernization & Reform Act

• PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS.—In establishing the program the Administrator shall—
  – (A) safely designate airspace for integrated manned and unmanned flight operations in the national airspace system;
  – (B) develop certification standards and air traffic requirements for unmanned flight operations at test ranges;
  – (C) coordinate with and leverage the resources of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the Department of Defense;
  – (D) address both civil and public unmanned aircraft systems;
  – (E) ensure that the program is coordinated with the Next Generation Air Transportation System; and
  – (F) provide for verification of the safety of unmanned aircraft systems and related navigation procedures before integration into the national airspace system.
FAA Modernization & Reform Act

• TEST RANGE LOCATIONS.—In determining the location of the 6 test ranges of the program under paragraph (1), the Administrator shall—
  – (A) take into consideration geographic and climatic diversity;
  – (B) take into consideration the location of ground infrastructure and research needs; and
  – (C) consult with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the Department of Defense.

• TEST RANGE OPERATION.—A project at a test range shall be operational not later than 180 days after the date on which the project is established.

• The FAA will not be funding the set-up, management or oversight of the test ranges.
Request for Comments (RFC)

- The FAA believes that the combined capabilities of the six test sites should provide an environment and opportunities to test:
  (1) Conventional takeoff and landing capability,
  (2) High speed flight,
  (3) Maritime (launch/maneuver/recovery) capability,
  (4) Operations at extremely high altitudes, and
  (5) Evaluation of dissimilar aircraft in multiple altitude structures.
  (6) Each site would not necessarily need to be identical, nor would each site need to have all five capabilities
- FAA believes that these capabilities should be present in the aggregate of the six test sites. Are there any other capabilities that test site selection should include?
Request for Comments (RFC)

• Geographical and climatic diversity are desirable traits for the test site location
  – The FAA believes that in addition to these traits, there are other important factors affecting siting, including:
    • Proximity to potential users
    • Availability of a suitable ground or air transportation network
  – Are there other siting characteristics of this nature that should be considered?
Request for Comments (RFC)

• All UAS test site operators should be able and willing to demonstrate their ability and experience in conducting UAS operations and research

• Methods that test site operators can use for that include:
  – Providing a detailed plan of operations (safety case, business case, etc.);
  – Demonstrating experience in managing and oversight of research and development (R&D) activities; and
  – Demonstrating the ability to mitigate technical and operational risk
Timeline

• Request for Comments due May 8, 2012
• Test Site Proposals will be submitted to the FAA via a Screening Information Request (SIR)
  – Estimated release July 2012
• Test Site Selection estimated December 2012
Questions and Answer Session

• Website: The FAA will post all comments received on the RFC to http://www.regulations.gov, including any personal information the commenter provides
Methods for Submitting Written Comments to the RFC

- **Federal eRulemaking Portal:**
  - [http://www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov). Follow the online instructions.

- **Mail- send comments to:**
  
  Docket Operations, M-30
  
  US Department of Transportation
  
  1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE, Room W12-140
  
  West Building, Ground Floor
  
  Washington, DC  20590-0001

- **Hand delivery or courier- take comments to:**
  
  US Department of Transportation
  
  Docket Operations in Room W12-140
  
  West Building, Ground Floor
  
  1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
  
  Washington, DC  20590-0001
  
  - Between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal Holidays

- **Fax:**
  
  - Fax comments to Docket Operations at 202-493-2251
For additional information

http://www.faa.gov/about/initiatives/uas/