



FAA
Aviation Safety

FY 2019

AUS

QUARTERLY
REPORT



Q3



Introduction

This document provides an overview of the UAS Integration Office's high-level accomplishments in FY 2019, Quarter 3 (April – June, 2019). When available, links to further information are supplied.

Announcements & Regulations

April 23, 2019

DOT Secretary Announces FAA Certification of Commercial Package Delivery

U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Elaine L. Chao today announced the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) awarded the first air carrier certification to a drone delivery company, Wing Aviation.

The certification paved the way for Wing Aviation to begin commercial package delivery in Blacksburg, VA. Wing partnered with the Mid-Atlantic Aviation Partnership and Virginia Tech, as one of the participants in the Transportation Department's Unmanned Aircraft Systems Integration Pilot Program.

https://www.faa.gov/news/press_releases/news_story.cfm?newsId=23554

April 30, 2019

FAA Releases Aerospace Forecast

The forecast highlights the phenomenal growth of Unmanned Aircraft Systems, often referred to as drones. The Faa Projects the small model UAS fleet to grow from 1.2 million vehicles in 2018 to .4 million in 2023, an average annual growth rate of 2.2 percent. The commercial, small non-model UAS fleet is forecast to nearly triple from 277,382 in 2018 to 835,211 in 2023, an average annual growth rate of 24.7 percent.

<https://www.faa.gov/news/updates/?newsId=93646>

May 7, 2019

FAA Statement on UAS Detection Systems at Airports

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) understands airport safety and security concerns raised by the malicious or errant use of unmanned aircraft systems (UAS). The agency shares these concerns.

In order to support the safe integration of UAS detection systems into the airport environment, the FAA provided important information and continues to work closely with airport operators who are considering installing UAS detection systems or have already installed such systems on or near their airports. The agency expects to supplement this information with additional information related to UAS detection system coordination as we refine our processes and procedures for safe UAS detection system use and coordinated operational response at or around airports.

<https://www.faa.gov/news/updates/?newsId=93726>

May 16, 2019

FAA Highlights Changes for Recreational Drones

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is implementing changes for recreational drone flyers mandated by Congress in the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018 (PDF).

While recreational flyers may continue to fly below 400 feet in uncontrolled airspace without specific certification or operating authority from the FAA, they are now required to obtain prior authorization from the FAA before flying in controlled airspace around airports. Furthermore, they must comply with all airspace restrictions and prohibitions when flying in controlled and uncontrolled airspace.

<https://www.faa.gov/news/updates/?newsId=93769>

May 17, 2019

FAA Establishes Restrictions on Drone Operations Near US Navy Vessels

At the request of its federal security partners, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is using its existing authority under Title 14 of the Code of Federal Regulations (14 CFR) § 99.7 – “Special Security Instructions” – to restrict drone operations over select facilities and assets.

The FAA established special security instructions that restrict drone operations in airspace up to 2,000 feet mean sea level (MSL) near U.S. territorial and navigable waters. These new restrictions specifically prohibit drone flights in this airspace within a stand-off distance of 3,000 feet laterally and 1,000 feet above any U.S. Navy vessel.

<https://www.faa.gov/news/updates/?newsId=93646>

May 20, 2019

Announcement of New Drone Advisory Committee (DAC) members and chairman

Secretary Elaine Chao appointed twelve new members of the DAC and invited Michael Chasen to be the new DAC chair. AUS-10 reviewed the more than 200 applicants, and recommended the top candidates to the FAA leadership and the Secretary for approval.

https://www.faa.gov/news/press_releases/news_story.cfm?newsId=23634

Announcements & Regulations, cont.

May 23, 2019 **More Access to Airspace to Fly Drones**

Beginning May 23, 2019, more than 100 control towers and airports were added to the hundreds of Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) air traffic facilities and airports that currently use the Low Altitude Authorization and Capability (LAANC) system.

<https://www.faa.gov/news/updates/?newsid=93789>

June 18, 2019 **AUS-1 Signs Off on Section 349 Knowledge Test Request for Information**

AUS-1 signed off on an RFI seeking to develop a partnership or partnerships with private entities able to administer the Section 349 aeronautical knowledge test. The RFI is expected to be posted for response in August, 2019.

June 18, 2019 **IPP Quarterly Reports**

The IPP Cross Programmatic Team completed its executive summary of the third round (FY2019 Q2) of Lead Participant Quarterly Reports.

Speeches & Meetings

April 23, 2019 **North Dakota Visit**

At the invitation of Senator John Hoeven, AUS-1 and others participated in two roundtables at the University of North Dakota and Grand Sky, discussing North Dakota's role in developing UAS. Of particular interest were discussion of the North Dakota test site and BVLOS operations in the state—particularly in the new UAS Super Corridor in the Red River Valley.

April 29 – May 2, 2019 **XPONENTIAL '19**

A delegation from AUS attended AUVSI's XPONENTIAL '19 in Chicago from April 29 – May 2. There AUS participated in a number of workshops and also tweeted live from the event. Of particular note was Acting Deputy Administrator Carl Burleson's keynote speech on safe UAS integration.

<https://www.xponential.org>

May 8, 2019 **Testimony at Senate Hearing on New Entrants in the National Airspace**

On May 8, AUS-1 and AST-1 testified on a panel before the U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation entitled "New Entrants in the National Airspace: Policy, Technology, and Security Issues for Congress."

June 3 - 5, 2019 **FAA UAS Symposium**

In cooperation with AUVSI, AUS hosted the 2019 FAA UAS Symposium from June 3 – 5. The symposium was the fourth and most widely-attended so far, and included three days of workshops, plenary sessions and more. Of special interest was Acting Administrator Elwell's opening keynote, which can be seen here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TnlA99xYmWU>. Proceedings from the event are available at

https://www.faa.gov/uas/resources/events_calendar/archive/2019_uas_symposium/

<https://www.auvsi.org/events/faq-uas-symposium-2019>

Speeches & Meetings, cont.

June 6, 2019

Drone Advisory Committee (DAC) Meeting

On June 6 AUS orchestrated the first meeting of the DAC with newly named members and chair Michael Chasen.

https://www.faa.gov/uas/programs_partnerships/drone_advisory_committee/

June 11, 2019

Uber Elevate Summit

AUS-10 supported S-1 and AOA-1 with various materials in preparation for the Uber Elevate Summit, which brought together 1200+ attendees for 2 days of technical sessions, hands-on demos, and networking events. AUS-400 and other divisions also supported this event.

Acting Administrator Elwell's speech can be read at

https://www.faa.gov/news/speeches/news_story.cfm?newsId=23794

June 12-14, 2019

European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA)-FAA International Aviation Safety Conference

An FAA delegation, led by AVS-1, attended the FAA-EASA International Aviation Safety Conference in Cologne, Germany from June 12-14. The FAA held several bi- and multi-lateral meetings with senior CAA officials to discuss various aviation safety-related activities. AUS-1 held bilateral meetings with Japan, the European Commission (DG MOVE), Denmark, Poland, EASA, and the UK. Topics of discussion included respective test pilot programs, regulatory and rulemaking landscape, UAS Traffic Management (UTM) /Urban Air Mobility (UAM) architecture and infrastructure, and the further sharing of best practices and information, among others. Additionally, AUS-1 participated in an electric vertical takeoff and landing panel with EASA and industry, as well as leading a "Flash Talk" with AFX-1 and Wing, presenting the FAA's strategy and partnership with various stakeholders regarding the successful integration of UAS into the NAS, our Integration Pilot Program (IPP), and the recent Part 135 approval for Wing.

June 19, 2019

UAS Senior Steering Group Meeting

The Executive Committee (ExCom) UAS Senior Steering Group (SSG) held a meeting for the first time since October of 2018. Sabrina Saunders-Hodge (AUS-300) participated in the UAS SSG Meeting at FAA HQ, where she led a discussion on Science and Research Panel (SARP) continued engagement. The Office of Security and Hazardous Materials (ASH) followed, and provided briefs on data security and UAS detection at airports. Jay Merkle (AUS-1) then provided an FAA rulemaking update, as well as a brief on the FY20 UAS Implementation Plan. The meeting concluded with a discussion on blue UAS architecture and policy from the Department of Defense.

June 28, 2019

UAS Test Sites Broad Agency Announcement

As of June 28, the FAA has received 57 white papers from un-validated Qualified Commercial Entities (QCEs) to participate in the UAS BAA. As required under the FY19 appropriations language (P.L. 116-6), the FAA needs to obligate \$6M in matching funds to QCEs seeking to demonstrate or validate technologies essential to the safe integration of UAS in the NAS at the FAA-designated UAS test sites.

Webinars & Facebook Live Events

Airspace and Airspace Authorizations

How NOTAMs Affect Drone Operations

Airspace for Drone Pilots

How to Identify Your Airspace

Class E Airspace & How to Operate In It

How to Start a Drone Program (for Public Safety)

Where and How to Fly in US Airspace

Past webinar recordings can be found at
<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL5vHkqHi51DQB5gTbz72NZtH-ivnNb5Sx>

No Fly Tweets

National Parks

PGA Masters Tournament

Cherry Blossoms

Fenway Park

Boston Marathon

Air Shows

Other Twitter Outreach

Live from XPONENTIAL '19

Comment Deadline for Operations Over People / At Night

Product Insert Reminder

Buzzy Teaches Do's and Don'ts of Responsible Flying

Controlled Air Space Requirements Symposium Tweeting

Drone Innovation & Integration Timelapse Video