AUS

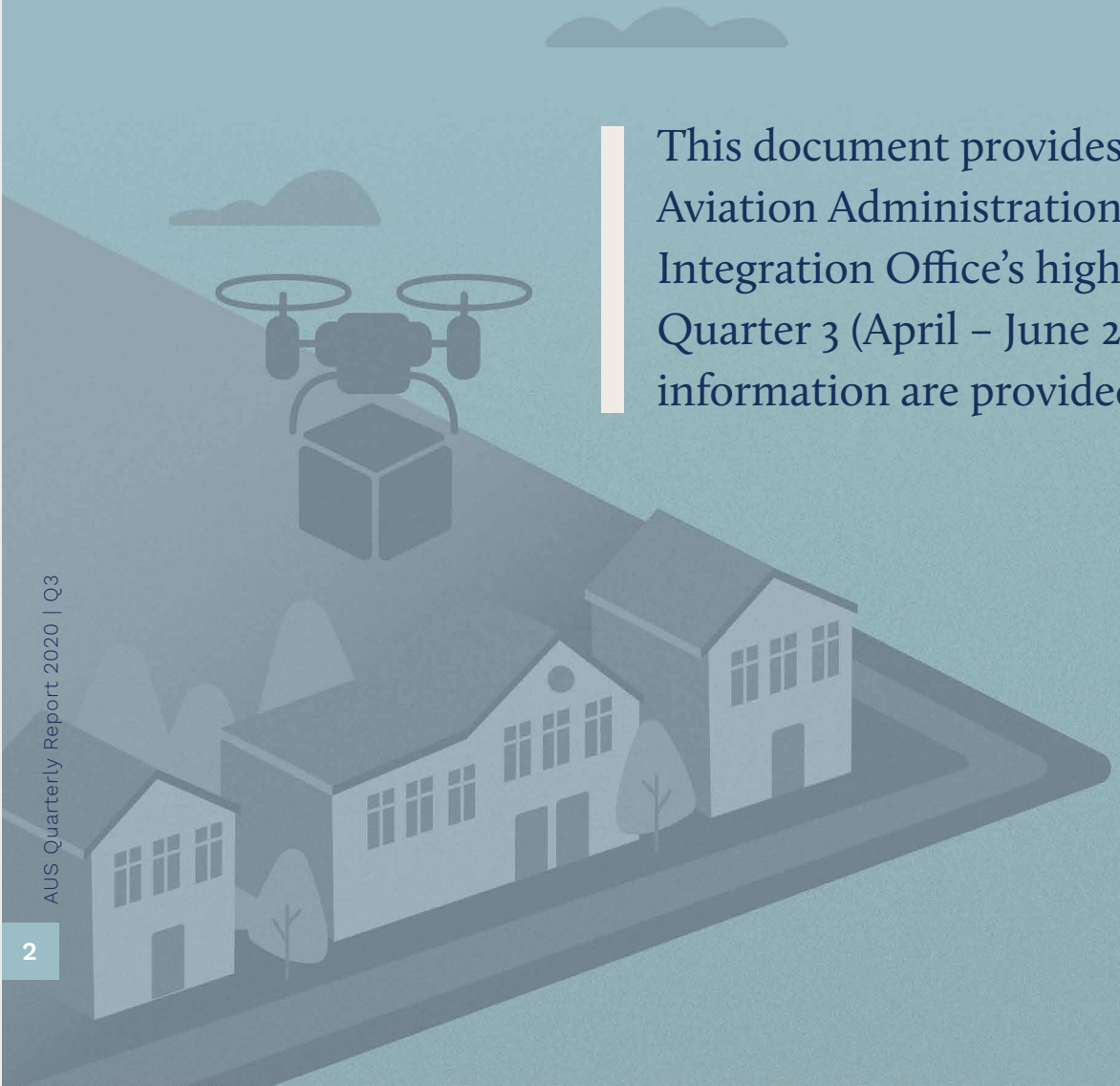
Quarterly Report

FAA
Aviation Safety

FY 2020

Q3

Introduction



This document provides an overview of the Federal Aviation Administration Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) Integration Office's high-level accomplishments in FY 2020, Quarter 3 (April – June 2020). When available, links to further information are provided.

April 3, 2020

Press Release – U.S. Transportation Secretary Elaine L. Chao Announces $2.6 Million in 14 Drone Grants to Universities

U.S. Transportation Secretary Elaine L. Chao today announced the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is awarding $2.6 million in research, education, and training grants to universities that comprise the agency's Air Transportation Center of Excellence (COE) for Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) also known as Alliance for System Safety of UAS through Research Excellence (ASSURE).
https://www.faa.gov/news/press_releases/news_story.cfm?newsId=24799

April 30, 2020

FAA Advances Drone Integration Initiatives

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) today announced a new Unmanned Aircraft Systems Collegiate Training Initiative (UAS-CTI) that allows educational institutions and the agency to work collaboratively with students who pursue careers in UAS.
https://www.faa.gov/news/updates/?newsId=95432

May 5, 2020

U.S. Department of Transportation Announces Technology Partners for Remote ID Development

The U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) today announced the eight companies that will assist the Federal government in establishing requirements for future suppliers of Remote Identification (Remote ID). Remote ID will enable Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS), commonly called drones, to provide identification and location information while operating in the nation's airspace.
https://www.faa.gov/news/press_releases/news_story.cfm?newsId=24956

April 13, 2020

UTM ConOps v.2 Virtual Meeting for Asia-Pacific Region

On April 13, the FAA UAS Integration Office held its first in a series of several UAS traffic management (UTM) Concept of Operations (ConOps) v.2 regional virtual meetings coordinated closely with the Office of NexGen. UAS Integration Office Executive Director Jay Merkle and Steve Bradford (Chief Scientist for Architecture and NextGen Development) provided an overview for Civil Aviation Authorities and Air Navigation Service Providers from across the Asia-Pacific Region. This event was attended by 62 participants, including representatives from Australia, China, Japan, New Zealand, Singapore, South Korea, and Thailand, and FAA observers from Flight Standards Service, Office of International Aviation, Office of NexGen, and several UAS Integration Office divisions. Jay and Steve answered questions on a variety of topics, including comment resolutions for the remote identification (remote ID) rulemaking, UAS Service Supplier (USS) service provision concepts, UTM, UAS registration and its relationship to remote ID transmissions, and privacy considerations.

April 24, 2020

UTM ConOps v.2 Virtual Meeting for Western Hemisphere Region

On April 24, UAS Integration Office Executive Director Jay Merkle and Office of NexGen's Steve Bradford hosted the third virtual meeting on UTM ConOps v.2 for Latin America, Canada, and the Caribbean. Over 40 attendees from various civil aviation authorities, air navigation service providers, International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), and the Latin American Civil Aviation Commission participated in the event. Jay and Steve answered questions on a range of topics, similar to earlier virtual meetings with the Asia-Pacific and Europe regions, including UAS USS service provisions, UTM airspace management, separation standards and responsibilities, and coordination with Air Traffic Control (ATC), plus many others.

May 26, 2020

Swiss Federal Office of Civil Aviation (FOCA) Declaration of Intent (DOI)

On May 26, Swiss FOCA signed a DOI with the FAA after a year-long coordination and clearance process. The DOI brings the FAA and FOCA together, as global leaders in aviation safety, to cooperate on activities in areas such as UTM concept validation, airworthiness, detect and avoid, human factors, low altitude safety, training, and research. The DOI also outlines areas for possible development, including systems engineering and safety documentation, UAS regulations, operational approvals, and cost-benefit analysis.

June 3, 2020
UTM ConOps v.2 Virtual Meeting for Middle East Region and India

On June 3, UAS Integration Office Executive Director Jay Merkle and NextGen's Steve Bradford hosted the fifth and final webinar on FAA's UTM ConOps, v.2, for civil aviation regulatory members from the Middle East Region and India. The 76 participants included representatives from eight countries (Bahrain, India, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and United Arab Emirates), and FAA observers from Office of International Affairs/Africa, Europe, and the Middle East Office; NexGen; and the UAS Integration Office.

June 12, 2020
Drone Advisory Committee (DAC) Charter

On June 12, a Federal Register notice was published renewing the DAC charter for another two years. The new charter, effective June 12, 2020, can be viewed here: https://www.faa.gov/uas/programs_partnerships/drone_advisory_committee/

June 18, 2020
Drone Advisory Committee (DAC) Solicitation for New Members

The UAS Integration Office prepared a notice of solicitation for nominations for appointment to the DAC. The Federal Register Notice was published on June 18, 2020, with nominations to be submitted by August 18, 2020. For more information read the notice in the Federal Register.

June 19, 2020
Drone Advisory Committee (DAC) Meeting

The UAS Integration Office hosted the first virtual DAC meeting on June 19. The meeting opened with a video message from the Secretary of Transportation thanking the DAC for their hard work and recommendations. The DAC presented their final recommendations for Task Group #7 (UTM) to the FAA. The DAC also shared an interim report for Task Group #8 (Safety Culture) and will share their final recommendation at the next DAC meeting. The meeting reached 10,300 viewers online.

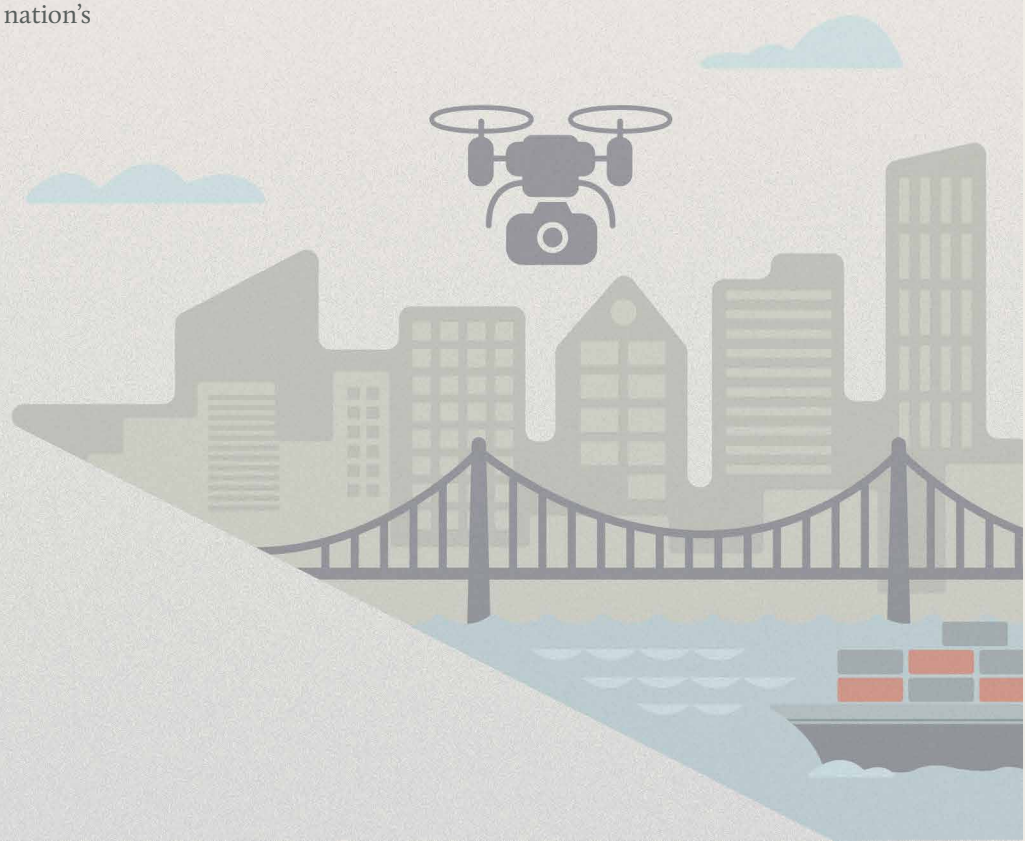
June 24, 2020
Public Safety

On June 24, UAS Integration Office participated with the International Association of Chiefs of Police on a virtual question & answer session on the use of UAS by public safety organizations. Approximately 500 people were registered.

Other Tweets/Facebook/Instagram

April 13, 2020
Check TFRs before, during, and after significant weather events

April 30, 2020
FAA authorizes UPS to fly drone deliveries for CVS Pharmacy in Florida

May 6, 2020
USDOT has announced eight companies that will help the FAA with Remote ID supplier requirements. Remote ID will identify and locate drones in our nation's airspace. https://t.co/A3ZiZrNzzl

June 26, 2020
Join the FAA's Jay Merkle and other industry leaders for a virtual fireside chat with the Air Traffic Control Association now, where they will discuss the integration of UAS into the national airspace. Register at https://t.co/hXmipxkJxf