AUS
Quarterly Report
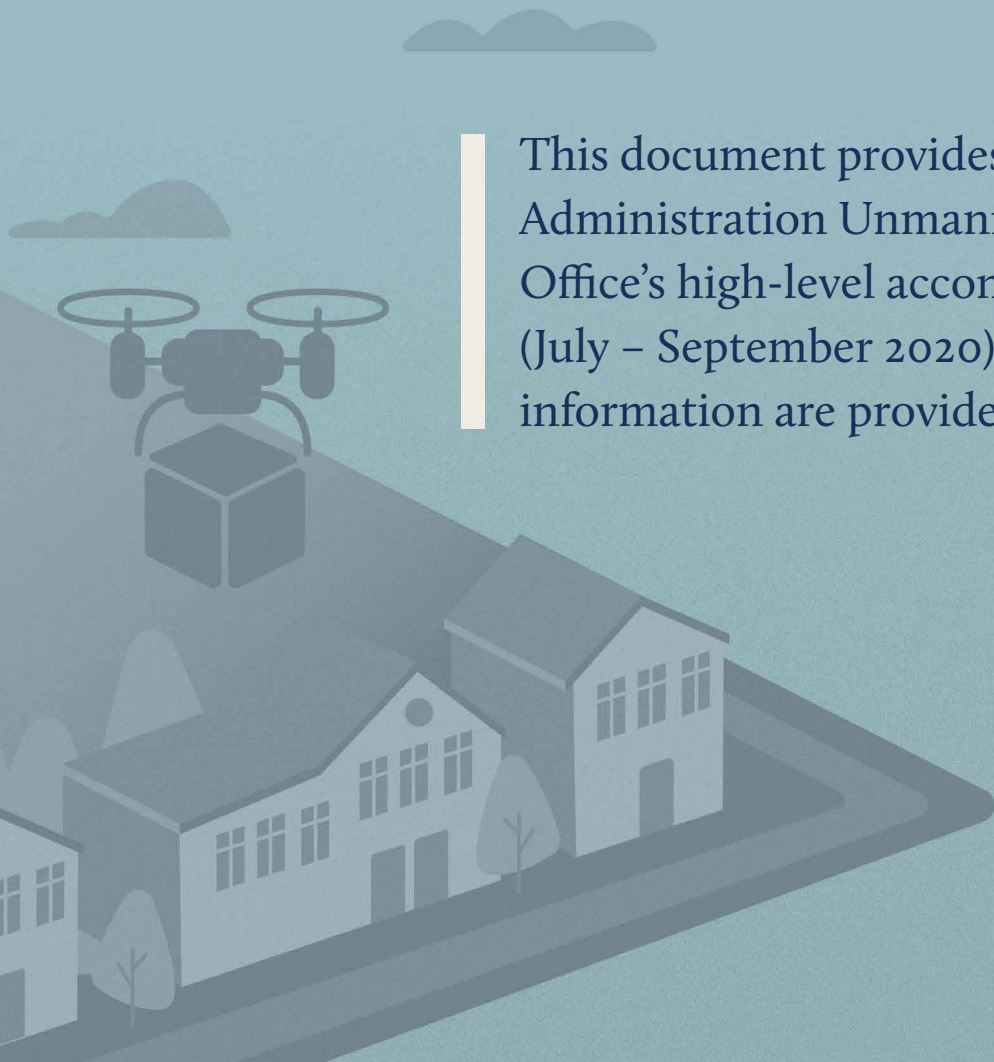
FAA
Aviation Safety

FY 2020
Q4

This document provides an overview of the Federal Aviation Administration Unmanned Aircraft Systems Integration Office's high-level accomplishments in FY 2020, Quarter 4 (July – September 2020). When available, links to additional information are provided.

July 8, 2020
Press Release – FAA – Switzerland Federal Office of Civil Aviation Agreement

The U.S. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and the Switzerland Federal Office of Civil Aviation today announced that they have reached an agreement in harmonizing domestic and international safety standards for Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS).

This agreement builds on U.S and Swiss efforts to ensure that the fastest growing and broadest segment of aviation is integrated safely, efficiently and seamlessly around the world.
https://www.faa.gov/news/press_releases/news_story.cfm?newsId=25096

August 6, 2020
Press Release – U.S. Transportation Secretary Elaine L. Chao Announces $3.3 Million in Seven Drone Grants to Universities

U.S. Transportation Secretary Elaine L. Chao today announced that the Federal Aviation Administration is awarding $3.3 million in research, education and training grants to universities that comprise FAA's Air Transportation Center of Excellence (COE) for Unmanned Aircraft System, also known as the Alliance for System Safety of UAS through Research Excellence (ASSURE).
https://www.faa.gov/news/press_releases/news_story.cfm?newsId=25158

August 21, 2020
Press Release – U.S. Transportation Secretary Elaine L. Chao Announces $7.5 Million in 19 Unmanned Aircraft System Research Grants to Universities

U.S. Transportation Secretary Elaine L. Chao today announced that the Federal Aviation Administration is awarding $7.5 million in research, education, and training grants to universities that comprise the agency's Air Transportation COE for Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS), ASSURE.
https://www.faa.gov/news/press_releases/news_story.cfm?newsId=25199

August 17, 2020
Interagency Issues Advisory on Use of Technology to Detect and Mitigate Unmanned Aircraft Systems

On August 17, 2020, the Department of Justice, the FAA, the Department of Homeland Security, and the Federal Communications Commission issued guidance to help non-federal public and private entities better understand the federal laws and regulations that may apply to the use of capabilities to detect and mitigate threats posed by UAS operations.
https://www.faa.gov/news/updates/?newsId=95733

August 18, 2020
FAA Continues Drone Integration Initiatives

The FAA announced 26 schools have been selected so far to participate in the UAS Collegiate Training Initiative (CTI).

The FAA's CTI program allows educational institutions to collaborate with the FAA to help students pursue their aviation career goals. The UAS-CTI program recognizes institutions that prepare students for careers in UAS or drones.
https://www.faa.gov/news/updates/?newsId=95732

August 20, 2020
FAA Takes Drone Safety to Spanish-speaking Community

The Federal Aviation Administration has launched a pilot program to translate into Spanish select web content for UAS users.

The initiative is expected to reach the nearly 25.6 million people living in the United States with Limited English Proficiency and will focus on Spanish, the most widely spoken language in the U.S. other than English.
https://www.faa.gov/news/updates/?newsId=95736

August 21, 2020
FAA to Test and Evaluate Unmanned Aircraft Detection & Mitigation Equipment at Airports

The FAA announced August 21, 2020, that it plans to evaluate technologies and systems that could detect and mitigate potential safety risks posed by unmanned aircraft. The effort will be part of the agency's Airport UAS Detection and Mitigation Research Program.
https://www.faa.gov/news/updates/?newsId=95737

Announcements & Regulations

September 17, 2020
More Schools Join the Collegiate Training Initiative

The FAA announced today that 15 more schools have been selected
to participate in the UAS CTI.
https://www.faa.gov/news/updates/?newsId=95838

September 24, 2020
Access to Controlled Airspaces Advances Drone and Overall Aviation Safety

The FAA today made it easier for drone pilots to quickly and safely
access controlled airspace by adding 133 air traffic facilities to the Low
Altitude Authorization and Notification Capability (LAANC) system.
LAANC is an automated application and approval system for drone
pilots requesting to fly below 400 feet in controlled airspace.
https://www.faa.gov/news/updates/?newsId=95879

Speeches, Meetings, & Events

June 19, 2020
Inaugural FAA/Swiss Federal Office of Civil Aviation (FOCA) Declaration of Intent (DOI) Collaboration Meeting

The FAA UAS Integration Office arranged an hour-long UTM discussion between the FAA and Swiss FOCA under the auspices of the DOI. In addition to the sharing of information, the group identified possible areas of future collaboration including GUTMA principles of global harmonization of UTM, Swiss remote ID implementation architecture and UAS Service Suppliers, ASTM standards, technical architectural updates, data exchange formats, and authorization services.

The FAA UAS Integration Office and FOCA will be meeting monthly for continued discussions.

July 7, 2020
International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems Panel (RPASP) – Air Traffic Management Operations Panel (ATMOPSP) Joint Task Force Virtual Meeting:

The FAA UAS Integration Office attended this virtual meeting with members from the ICAO Secretariat, member States, and international aviation organizations to discuss progress of drafting revisions to Procedures for Air Navigation (PANS). The Joint Task Force has both Detect and Avoid and Lost Command-and-Control Link drafting groups, which are currently drafting changes to PANS documents for Air Traffic Management and operations. The ICAO Secretariat needs the PANS-ATM and OPS drafts by mid-September for coordination with the RPASP and ATMOPSP during their October meetings.

July 8 – 9 & August 18 – 19, 2020
FAA UAS Symposium

This year the FAA UAS Integration Office hosted the first virtual FAA UAS Symposium. The event attracted a record of more than 1,500 registrants. Due to the COVID-19 health emergency, the Symposium took place virtually and was delivered in two episodes.

Speeches, Meetings, & Events

July 9, 2020
Research, Engineering, and Development Advisory Committee (REDAC)

The FAA REDAC conducted a full committee meeting with representatives from industry, universities, government agencies, and various associations. The director of the William J. Hughes Technical Center and the REDAC chairman provided the welcome address and opening remarks. The FAA's Acting Assistant Administrator for NextGen provided a modernization perspective, and the FAA's Chief Scientist & Technical Advisor briefed on human factors and automation interaction. The FAA UAS Integration Office is reviewing the human factors material in an effort to extract potential research requirements for UAS. There was a panel discussion on the impact of COVID-19 on FAA research activities, followed by subcommittee reports on airports and human factors as well as aircraft safety and the environment. The meeting concluded with a discussion on committee findings and recommendations.

July 22, 2020
Meeting with Australia Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA)

On July 22, the Executive Director of the FAA UAS Integration Office and CASA's RPAS Branch Manager met via phone conference to discuss UAS-related industry activities in Australia and the United States. The two agreed to hold regular calls to share information on respective UAS-related developments and efforts.

August 3 – 7, 2020
IPP Focus Meeting

The 7th overall IPP Focus Meeting was held the week of August 3-7. The purpose was to provide additional clarity on Post-IPP plans in order to inform Lead Participant (LP) continuation. Over the course of five days, there were 19 Zoom meetings, including one-on-one sessions between the Executive Director of the FAA UAS Integration office and each of the nine LPs to discuss their initial reactions to the Post-IPP Program and their preliminary plans.

August 11 – 12, 2020
Bilateral Virtual Meeting with Canada

On August 11-12, the FAA UAS Integration Office hosted a two-day virtual meeting with Transport Canada's RPAS task force. Six sessions were held covering topics of UTM, cUAS research and development and related security issues, airworthiness, UAS-related rulemaking updates, remote pilot licensing, and cross border operations.

Speeches, Meetings, & Events

August 20, 2020
Nigeria Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA) Meeting

The FAA UAS Integration Office coordinated an information-sharing session with NCAA and Nigeria's Airspace Management Agency (NAMA) on the FAA's UAS Traffic Management development efforts. Participants included NAMA's Director and Operations Director. Nigeria continues to actively seek FAA engagement on several UAS-related topics—including pilot licensing/training, safety risk management, and UTM—given their significant general aviation community and a rapidly growing UAS presence.

August 25, 2020
FAA-Australia Trusted Autonomous Systems Defence Cooperative Research Center (TASDCRC) Meeting: Autonomous Research.

Members of the FAA UAS Integration Office conducted a technical interchange meeting with the chief engineer and chief scientist from Australia's TASDCRC. Discussions focused on autonomy research efforts that can be shared publically such as the assurance and certification of highly automated systems. Meeting participants agreed to alert each other when making research findings available to the public. Moreover, FAA and TASDCRC representatives agreed to conduct future meetings and discuss automation research findings and lessons learned.

August 26, 2020
United Arab Emirates (UAE) General Civil Aviation Authority (GCAA) UTM Panel

On August 26, the FAA provided a presentation entitled "UTM, the New ATM Plus," during the "Month of Knowledge: For the Future of Air Navigation Services" virtual forum co-hosted by ICAO Middle East Region and UAE GCAA.

August 27, 2020
FAA-Airways New Zealand Meeting

In August, the FAA UAS Integration Office facilitated a meeting between the FAA and New Zealand's Air Navigation Service Provider—Airways New Zealand. Airways members provided an overview and a demonstration of their UTM solution, AirShare. The meeting also included an open discussion session, during which FAA provided an update on its UTM development efforts and fielded related questions from the New Zealand team.

August 27, 2020
US-China Aviation Cooperation Program (ACP) – American Chamber of Commerce-China (ACCC) Virtual Meeting

On August 27, the FAA UAS Integration Office delivered the featured presentation on FAA UAS Safety and Integration Programs during the US-China ACP monthly meeting. The FAA and Boeing China co-chair the China ACP, with members from the U.S. Trade and Development Agency, U.S. Foreign Commercial Service, various U.S. Embassy-Beijing officials, and industry members from the ACCC.

Speeches, Meetings, & Events

September 9, 2020
FAA/Swiss FOCA Meeting

The FAA UAS Integration Office coordinated a monthly between the FAA and Swiss FOCA. FOCA provided a presentation on Swiss U-Space Implementation or "SUSI." The meeting provided the FAA with helpful insight into the Swiss Remote Identification System, and next monthly meeting topics will include continued discussions on SUSI, related Swiss legal agreements, Skyguide (Switzerland's Air Navigation Service Provider), standards, and operationalization.

September 14, 2020
FAA – ICAO Cooperative Development of Operational Safety and Continuing Airworthiness Programs Southeast Asia (COSCAP SEA) UAS Integration Webinar

On September 14, the FAA and ICAO COSCAP SEA jointly conducted a two-hour UAS Integration webinar for 74 COSCAP SEA members from Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Papua-New Guinea, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor Leste, and Vietnam. FAA speakers made presentations on UAS Rules and Rulemaking, UAS Operations, UTM Development, and UAS Security. Additionally, ICAO briefed UAS integration resources available to member-States, and Indonesia presented on its UAS integration regulatory developments to date.

September 16 – 17, 2020
Second Annual FAA International UAS Integration Research Roundtable

The FAA UAS Integration Office hosted the Second Annual FAA International UAS Integration Research Roundtable with delegates from the U.S. (FAA and ASSURE) and from North America, South America, Europe, Asia, and Africa. FAA presentations included an overview of the UAS landscape from the U.S./FAA perspective and beyond visual line of sight (BVLOS) and Urban Air Mobility research briefings. Delegates representing Singapore, Israel, the United Kingdom, Switzerland, Canada, Korea, and Rwanda provided briefings and discussed progress in UAS integration since September 2019, updates on research and development activities, current integration challenges, and near-term UAS priorities. Delegates from Brazil, Japan and Spain were also actively engaged in the discussions.

September 24, 2020
FAA/European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) Quarterly Meeting on UAS

On September 24, the FAA met with EASA to discuss UAS activities and plan future in-depth discussions in December. The FAA updated EASA about its UAS integration strategy, rulemaking, exemptions, and waivers. EASA informed the FAA about their U-Space, electric vertical take-off and landing operations, rulemaking, and certified category concept paper.

Select Online Notices

There are 1.6M+ registered #drone flyers in the United States! The #FAA and the drone community are working together to safely integrate drones into our nation's airspace. Watch our new Drones by the Numbers video and learn more at https://t.co/YoRJiIQpL7.

Public safety agencies in the path of Hurricane Laura: To operate a drone to aid emergency efforts, Part 107 operators and drone pilots with COAs may apply for FAA SGI approval at https://t.co/O1Rsyitgvc. Watch our helpful webinar at https://t.co/5UkSJSTO7N.