

Visual Observation

Ground observers will be employed within 1,000 feet vertically and 2,000 feet laterally of the UAS. Ground observers will maintain line-of-sight to the UAS at all times. Ground safety observers will search for other airborne operations visually and will be in constant radio contact with the Moffett Field air traffic control tower through the NASA Ames Research Center trunking radio system. The UAS pilot, the safety observers, and the Ground Control Station are equipped with trunking radios to monitor traffic and communicate with the tower.

Chase Aircraft

A chase aircraft is used in situations where the UAS pilot would not otherwise be able to maintain line-of-sight to the UAS. In this case, the chase aircraft is an OH-58C helicopter with the RMAX pilot on-board so that he/she maintains direct line-of-sight to the RMAX aircraft. Communications between the chase aircraft and UAS pilot is through the aircraft intercom system.