Overview of the Unmanned Aircraft Systems Industry

Tom McMahon
Vice President, Advocacy and Public Affairs
Association for Unmanned Vehicle Systems International
UAS Economic Potential

AUVSI’s Economic Report:

• The UAS global market is currently $11.3 billion

• Over the next 10 years, the UAS global market will total $140 billion

• The economic impact of US airspace integration will total over $13.6 billion in the first three years and will grow sustainably for the foreseeable future, cumulating to over $82.1 billion between 2015 and 2025

• Every year that airspace integration is delayed will cost the U.S. over $10 billion in lost potential economic impact, which translates to $27 million per day
Exemptions Report

Top States

1. California
2. Florida
3. Texas
4. New York
5. Colorado
6. Illinois
7. North Carolina
8. Ohio
9. Pennsylvania
10. Georgia

Revenue

Business Applications

- Aerial Photo
- Real Estate
- Inspection
- Survey
- Construction
Exemptions Report

• UAS operators in Massachusetts, for example, have received more than 100 exemptions to operate UAS for commercial purposes before the small UAS rule took effect.

• Industries using UAS in the state include:
  – Real Estate
  – Construction
  – Agriculture

• AUVSI projects the expansion of UAS technology will create more than 2,933 jobs and over $2.32 billion in economic impact over the next decade in Massachusetts.
sUAS Registration Service

An efficient process for sUAS registration should lead to increased accountability across the entire aviation community

- Existing registration requirement for commercial operators – extending to consumer users helps promote responsibility and safety
- Industry-Government collaboration led to quick policy development – similar urgency needed for more complex issues, such as BVLOS and UTM
- 500,000+ registrations as of Aug. 2016
- 20,000+ commercial registrations
Know Before You Fly Campaign

• Education campaign to teach prospective UAS users how to fly responsibly
  – Partnered with Academy of Model Aeronautics and FAA
• Website www.knowbeforeyoufly.org provides recreational, commercial, and public entities with information and guidance to fly safely and responsibly.
• Working with manufacturers and distributors to include pamphlets in UAS product packaging and at the point of sale
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Part 107: Legal Issues to Look For

- General Requirements
- Waivers?
- Government sUAS Operations
- Section 333 Survives! (non-sUAS)
- State Drone Law!

Free Book!
www.dronelawtoday.com/book

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www.dronelawtoday.com
State Law Drone Issues

Carlos R. Soltero
FAA—New Regulations

- June 21, 2016—Summary of Small UA (Part 107)
- Less than 55 lbs/25 kg & Max. Altitude 400 ft AGL/structure
- Sight distance/Daylight
- **Licensing:** Remote pilot in command certification
- Operate in Class G Airspace w/o ATC
Limits to FAA/Regulatory Compliance

As the Texas Supreme Court wrote:

"a permit is not a get out of tort free card."

“This is consistent with our common law rule that the mere fact that an administrative agency issues a permit to undertake an activity does not shield the permittee from third party tort liability stemming from consequences of the permitted activity”

FPL Farming, Ltd. v. Environmental Processing Sys., L.C. (Tex. 2011)
Legal Issues

State Tort Laws

• Trespass
• Nuisance
• Invasion of Privacy
• Property damage & Personal injury
  • Negligence
  • Products Liability

Property rights – where does airspace/FAA regulations begin?

Is more than one sovereign empowered to regulate?

Who may complain?
  • Public
  • Private
Commercial Uses of UAS

UAS are already being used in a variety of applications, and many more areas will benefit by their use, such as:

- Wildfire mapping
- Agricultural monitoring
- Disaster management
- Thermal infrared power line surveys
- Law enforcement
- Telecommunications
- Weather monitoring
- Aerial image/mapping
- Television news coverage, sporting events, moviemaking
- Environmental monitoring
- Oil and gas exploration; and
- Freight transport
Commercial Uses of UAS

Amazon exec: Our drones will deliver in 30 minutes or less

With most Amazon items weighing less than 5 pounds, drones should be able to tote almost anything for short-distance deliveries, a company executive tells Yahoo.

FAA approves ski-video drones

Dallas Cowboys Get FAA Go-Ahead for Drone Use During Practice
Some Concerns

Drone Hits Empire State Building: NYPD

TGI Friday drone crashes into woman's face and cuts it open in restaurant
Drones carry mistletoe and kiss cams to pressure couples into kissing

11-MONTH-OLD GIRL INJURED AFTER PRIVATE DRONE CRASHES IN PASADENA

National Security
FAA records detail hundreds of close calls between airplanes and drones
Lawsuit over shot-down drone could set U.S. law

USA TODAY NETWORK  Andrew Wolfson, The (Louisville, Ky.) Courier-Journal  9:53 p.m. EST January 16, 2016

TECH
Drones Boom Raises New Question: Who Owns Your Airspace?

17 states have passed laws to restrict use of craft, but where does private property begin?
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