

UAS Traffic Management (UTM) Pilot Program



Operators of small unmanned aircraft systems (sUAS) are continuously exercising new, beneficial applications for sUAS operations such as goods delivery, infrastructure inspection, search and rescue, and agricultural monitoring.

Currently, there is limited infrastructure and capabilities available to manage the widespread expansion of sUAS operations within the National Airspace (NAS). In 2015, a Research Transition Team (RTT) was formed between the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to jointly develop and enable a sUAS Traffic Management (UTM) ecosystem to provide management services to sUAS operations.

The FAA Extension, Safety, and Security Act of 2016 Pub. L. 114-190 § 2208 (July 15, 2016) directs coordination/collaboration, development, and publication of a UTM Research Plan and establishment of a UTM System Pilot Program (UPP).

Established in April 2017, the UPP's primary goal is to develop, demonstrate, and provide enterprise services that will support implementation of initial UTM operations. This enterprise service will support the sharing of intent and situational awareness information amongst UTM participants. The UPP is an important component of

identifying the initial set of industry and FAA capabilities required to support UTM operations and will provide an understanding of the level of investment required for stakeholders' implementation.

NASA in collaboration with FAA is developing the prototype Flight Information Management System (FIMS). FIMS will provide common situational awareness to all UTM stakeholders and will be a central component of the overall UTM ecosystem. As the FAA's initial UTM application within this ecosystem, sUAS Low Altitude Authorization and Notification Capability (LAANC) will support operations under Parts 101 and 107 of Title 14 of the Code of Federal Regulations (14 CFR).

The UPP will demonstrate the initial integrated UTM ecosystem including an ability to dynamically restrict airspace to support UTM operations. The UPP will serve as the foundation for the UTM implementation and support additional capabilities in accordance with the UAS regulatory framework for safe low altitude airspace for UAS operations.

Stay up-to-date on the latest NASA and FAA news regarding UTM Pilot Program:

FAA UAS Traffic Management

<https://www.faa.gov/uas/research/utm/>

NASA UTM

<https://utm.arc.nasa.gov/index.shtml>

