

Unmanned Aircraft Systems

THE GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE
2008/2009



PREFACE

By Peter van Blyenburgh
Managing Director, Blyenburgh & Co
President, UVS International

Over the last twelve months a number of significant unmanned aircraft system (UAS)-related activities took place and decisions impacting the UAS community were taken:

- EUROCAE Working Group (WG) 73 on UAS Systems, RTCA Special Committee (SC) 203, EUROCONTROL, the FAA and ICAO have agreed to adopt the term «unmanned aircraft systems» (UAS), instead of unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) system. Consequently, UAS is now the internationally accepted official term.
- The FAA UAS Program Office, notwithstanding federal budget restraints, is now firmly established and has issued a growing number of Special Airworthiness Certificates (84 in 2007). Early 2008, the FAA announced the creation of an Advisory Rulemaking Committee (ARC) on light UAS.
- The European Institute organized the 2nd trans-Atlantic UAS roundtable in Washington, DC in November 2007.
- The first UAS entered into operational service with a police force (Canada).
- The first Chinese UAS manufacturer has joined UVS International.
- ICAO has started up an official UAS Study Group, which have had their kick-off meeting.
- EUROCAE WG73 and RTCA SC 203 continued their groundbreaking work on UAS standards.
- UVS International created the Interim Working Group on Light UAS, which supplied its final report (guidance document) to EUROCAE WG73 in February 2008.
- On instigation of the CAA of The Netherlands, the civil aviation authorities of Austria, Belgium, Czech Rep., France, Germany, Italy, Spain, Sweden and UK, have created a European co-ordination group designated «Joint Authorities for Rulemaking on Unmanned Systems» (JARUS).
- New national associations have been created in France (UVS France) and Norway (UAS Norway).
- The new UVS International Board of Directors consists of 15 members originating from 10 countries.
- Within the framework of its Global Access Initiative, UVS International created the International Co-ordination Council.
- The first conference dedicated to the scientific use of UAS took place in Boulder, CO, USA.
- UAS were successfully used to monitor the wild fires in California, USA in 2007.
- The number of UAS referenced in this publication has grown from 789 to 974, representing an increase of 23%.

With the intent to, once again, bring the global UAV community together and to give this community a means of communicating their views, this edition of the UAS yearbook is being produced with contributions from 68 stakeholder organizations, which signifies a growth of 19%. This growth should be seen as a sign that the international UAS

community indeed places a value on this publication and its role in federating the international UAS community.

International harmonization of rules and regulations pertaining to the insertion of UAS into non-segregated airspace can only continue if there is continued contact, co-ordination and co-operation between all the stakeholders involved. True harmonisation can only be achieved, if the industry and government drivers in this process agree on a common goal and together strive to attain it. The close coordination between EUROCONTROL, FAA and ICAO, as well as between EUROCAE and RTCA are all good signs. The UAS community has a global problem facing it and should strive towards attaining a global solution. An important part of this endeavour is to create awareness of the community's efforts with all global stakeholders and to reach out to them. This publication, which is now in its 6th edition, once again endeavours to present a general photograph of the current worldwide UAS situation and to supply a specific focus on selected activities in a number of countries.

The contents of this yearbook, which has a print run of 10.000, is posted on www.uvs-international.org and www.uvs-info.com, in order to make it accessible to the entire international UAS community.

All qualifying organizations (national ministries, EC agencies, NATO agencies & working groups, government agencies, military authorities, regulatory authorities, international organizations and stakeholder groups) desiring it, will receive a free electronic copy of this publication on CD for posting on their (intra) web sites. Requests for such a CD should be addressed by email, fax or letter to Blyenburgh & Co, or UVS International. The 2006 edition was supplied to 159 organizations in 34 countries; the 2007 edition was supplied to 234 organizations in 35 countries (an increase of 47%). This current edition will most probably be posted on even more intra nets & web sites.

It is my hope that this publication will continue to contribute to creating a better understanding of the various stakeholder groups currently involved with UAS, to improving awareness of the various initiatives by the international UAS community, to federating the global UAS community for the benefit of all, and thereby to bringing the future nearer.

