

UVS Canada

By Wayne Crowe, President

UVS Canada is the focal point for Unmanned Vehicle Systems in Canada. Now in its sixth year of drawing the Canadian UVS Community together, we are finding the activities and opportunities in our sector to be more exciting than ever. Here is a short summary of our many activities in support of the Canadian Community.

UVS Canada «Expanding Horizons» Conference 2007

In the spirit of a truly national association, UVS Canada for the first time hosted its annual unmanned vehicles conference in the East of Canada in St. John's, New Foundland. In the birthplace of wireless communications and the guardian of the North Atlantic sea lanes, more than 280 unmanned vehicle professionals gathered to exchange information and generally network with other individuals within the field. Seventy-five individuals took advantage of the workshop day on the 6th, choosing between three different streams: Technical Interoperability Standards; UAV Airspace Access; and UAV Modelling and Simulation. The trade show area was completely sold out with more than twenty corporations and organizations reserving space for booths that ranged in size from small one person displays to large two story centrepieces.

Briefings included: information on the CF UAV campaign plan and the Joint Airborne ISR Capability (JAIC) program; developments in sense and avoid technology; updates on efforts to integrate unmanned air vehicles into controlled airspace; lessons learned from fielded UAV systems, including the CF Sperwer in Afghanistan; and a briefing on the very first operational use in North America of a certified UAV in a police investigation by the Ontario Provincial Police. The next gathering of UVS Canada will take place at The Brookstreet Hotel, in Ottawa Ontario on 4-7 November- don't miss it!

Inaugural Mark Cuss Memorial Scholarship

2007 marked the inauguration of the Mark Cuss Memorial Scholarship by UVS Canada. Mark Cuss was a gifted young UAV engineer who passed away in Dec 2006 at the age of 27 of cancer. This \$2500 scholarship was established in his memory to encourage and financially support other young engineers within the UAV field and this year was won by Dustin Engen, an intern with CDL Systems.

UVS Canada Student UAV Competition

In May of 2007, we brought together student engineers from across Canada to Goose Bay, NL, for Canada's first student UAV competition. Focused on the civilian search and rescue problem, this competition brought some of the best young talent in this country together. The event captured the interest of both national and provincial media. Many thanks to our supporting institutions and industries who worked to make this event a success!

The next iteration of this competition has already started with a Design Paper competition to be held this year and another fly-off based on the winning designs occurring next spring/ summer!

CASI Aero 2007

UVS Canada and the Canadian Aeronautics and Space Institute (CASI) partnered to present a combined UAV aerospace technical symposium as part of the national aerospace conference, AERO 2007, at the end of April. This collaboration offered our community an internationally recognized peer-reviewed forum for presenting their work to the greater aviation community.

Transport Canada UAV Working Group

Many years of collaboration between UVS Canada and Transport Canada has resulted in a working group fully supported by the senior TC management and charged with reviewing and recommending changes to the Canadian Aviation Regulations (CARs) to permit routine flight of civil UAVs. This is a large group, with nearly 30 people participating, over 20 of whom are manufacturers and operators of UAVs and includes representation from the Canadian Owners and Pilots Association.

UVS Canada Involvement in the International Polar Year (Sustained Arctic Observing Networks- SAON)

In addition to setting the focus of the UVS Canada «Expanding Horizons» conference as the International Polar Year, UVS Canada has also been invited to attend and present at the second IPY International Workshop 9-11 April in Edmonton Canada to help address the question «*How will Arctic observing and data and information management activities be coordinated and sustained over the long term?*». An obvious opportunity for UVs of all types, UVS Canada will present the various capabilities industry can bring to this challenge.

International Outreach

UVS Canada will continue to represent Canadian UVS Capability in Paris at the UVS International conference, the Paris Air Show, and at the AUUSI conference in the USA. The grand prize of our Student Paper Competition, held each November in conjunction with the annual conference, allows one Canadian student to also participate in the Paris outreach.

Community Connection

We are enhancing Canadian UVS Community news through our quarterly e-newsletter as well as hiring an Executive Director to further enhance our ability to progress UVS issues and promote the sector across the board.

UVS Canada has been described as a high-performing home-grown UVS association. Our team of volunteers is truly representative of the Canadian UVS Community and energized to keep «Canada First» in this arena - a sector that will prove vital to Canadians throughout this century.

For additional information visit www.uvscanada.org