



UAS Pioneer Award

HONOURING TWO EXCEPTIONAL PIONEERS

In 2008, UVS International has instituted the «UAS Pioneer Award» in order to honour and recognize individuals for their dedication and the exceptional services that they have supplied to the international UAS community. In actual fact, this award has been created to specifically honour and thank its first two recipients. If it was not for the vision of people like Filippo de Florio and Mal Walker, the international UAS community would not only have missed two wonderful persons, but ENAC would most probably not have been able to deploy its groundbreaking ongoing UAS certification work under the guidance of Giuliana Tamburro, and Australia would not be the first country in the world to have a regulation within which all classes of UAS can be regulated. The international UAS community salutes and gratefully thanks both Felippo De Florio and Mal Walker. In recognition of their endeavours regarding unmanned aircraft systems, the UAS Pioneer Award will from now on be known as the «De Florio & Walker Pioneer Award».



Filippo De Florio, is an aeronautical engineer and retired from from the Italian ENAC (Ente Nazionale Aviazione Civile) in March 2000.

Between 1962 and 1966, after obtaining his engineering degree, he was employed by ALITALIA (Technical Service), AERFER (Technical Office), researcher in the Institute of Aerodynamics-University of Naples.

From February 1966 -to October 1992. Filippo was RAI Inspector at the Direzione Territoriale of Milan and was engaged in aeroplanes and sailplanes type certification; production and continuous airworthiness oversight. Since 1976, he was a Member of the JAR 22 and JAR VLA Study Groups for issuing those standards.

From November 1992 to February 2000, Filippo was director of the RAI/ ENAC Type Certification Division in Rome, Italy. During this period he was also, Member of the JAA Certification Committee. It was during this period that he recognized the upcoming importance of unmanned aircraft systems and the requirement for certification norms. and single-handedly made the first tayloring of JAR-VLA to accommodate unmanned aircraft.

After his retirement he has consulted Alenia (Certif. of C27J, STC ATR Cargo and ATR MP) and Vulcanair (Certif. WF 600). In addition he is also:

- Honorary Member of UVS International.
- Member of the OSTIV Sailplane Development Panel.
- Aeroplane Private Pilot Licence (1967-1993).
- Sailplane Pilot Licence (1968- 1994).
- Author of «AERONAVIGABILITÀ» published in 2003 and «AIRWORTHINESS an Introduction to Aircraft Certification» published in 2006 (ongoing review toward the 2nd edition).



Malcolm (Mal) Walker joined the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) in 1996 after 30years experience in the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) and the civil heavy helicopter industry. In the RAAF he flew DC3, Convair Metropolitan 440 and Viscount 800 aircraft which gave him exposure to high density operations in all variations of controlled airspace. Subsequently he operated military helicopters and heavy lift civil helicopters in remote areas of the globe. In 1997, as part of CASA's regulatory review program, he volunteered to lead a team reviewing legislation governing the operation of unmanned (unpiloted) aircraft, rockets, balloons and kites. His wide operational experience made him the obvious choice for this task.

In an era of increasing application of unmanned aircraft, he identified a lack of consistent legislation as an impediment to the progressive integration of these aircraft into civil airspace. Under Mal's guidance, the team identified FAR 101 as a model of regulation within which all classes of unmanned flight could be regulated. Thus, Civil Aviation Safety Regulation (CASR) Part 101 evolved.

The final rule was published in 2001, becoming law in January 2003. Particular attention was paid to the link between model aircraft and the adopted term «UAVs» and the certification requirements of controllers, operators and systems. Mal retained oversight of UAS activities in Australia until his retirement from CASA at the end of 2007.

Mal retains his interest in aviation as a pilot in the offshore helicopter industry and as a casual consultant to the UAS industry. He is also an honorary member of UVS International.