

Uncrewed Services Advisory Network – Meeting 6

Wednesday 07 August 2024, 9:30am to 12:30am AEDT

Meeting Summary

Agenda Item 2 – Discussion

USAN Roadmap and Actions Update (*Sasha Nikolic*)

- Based on feedback from the previous in-person USAN meeting and the discussions around gaps and opportunities, agreement that there is an opportunity to position USAN as the core network for driving development of the uncrewed sector. Agreement that USAN's value is in the ability to present a consensus view across Government and industry, through broad input.
- A shared roadmap developed within USAN would address key gaps and opportunities, with agreement that its success would hinge on harnessing members' collective capabilities and expertise; the roadmap will be dynamic and evolve into the future.
- The input provided by members has been summarised and grouped into key themes, and these form the basis of the USAN Actions Roadmap:
 - o Regulatory/Policy Framework
 - o Airspace Integration
 - o Infrastructure and Data
 - o Social Licence through Engagement
 - o Industry Capability and Workforce
- Members agreed that a holistic overall plan is needed, with different components and parts that the USAN collective will have a role to apply and that includes Government working with industry. An opportunity was also flagged to bring the many different roadmaps (from Government and industry) together. It will be important to maintain consistency and to prevent duplicated effort. It was important for this to showcase both the planning and implementation implications.
- Airservices is looking to stand up a USAN Data Working Group and an Education/Engagement Working Group. USAN members should contact the Secretariat for details on how to register interest in either of these Working Groups.
- To better facilitate cross-government alignment, a weekly meeting between Airservices, CASA and the Department has been set up, with updates from these meetings to be provided at future USAN meetings.
- Agreed that there is an opportunity for closer collaboration and sharing of global developments in the uncrewed sector. As a trial, a closed LinkedIn chat will be set up for USAN members to collaborate and share industry developments.

Agenda Item 3 – Action Update

RPAS/AAM Regulatory Roadmap (*Rebecca Kuster*)

- Update provided on the seven industry sessions held between 29 May 2024 and 14 June 2024 to gather industry perspectives on CASA's RPAS Roadmap. Emphasis was placed on the prioritisation of enabling test flights and research and development.
- Priorities to progress:
 - o Airspace Integration
 - o Sandboxes and Research and Development test flights
 - o Efficient regulatory services
- An industry technical group is in the process being stood up and CASA is in the final stages of sending communications out to the members of that group. More information will be communicated in future meetings.

Australian Future Airspace Framework (AFAF) Update and Next Steps (*Christine Boag-Hodgson*)

- *Civil Aviation Act (2021)* is being reviewed with potential amendments coming out in 2025.
- A technical working group for AFAF has been stood up, with CASA looking to stand up another, interested parties are to contact Christine Boag-Hodgson (CASA).
- AFAF will consider the entire airspace picture, not just for UAS operations. Any changes to AFAF will be evidence based, using data and collision risk modelling. AFAF currently consists of 5 published volumes, with another 4 to be published over the next 18 months.
- Several airspace strategy papers on topics are also being published to support industry.

Agenda Item 4 – Action Update

UTM Action Plan (*Benedict Lyons*)

- The UTM Action Plan will outline government actions across four focus areas:
 - o Separation and Airspace Integration
 - o Better Regulation
 - o Fit-for-purpose regulatory approvals
 - o Improved compliance, enforcement and security.
- The Department will circulate a draft to the industry working group imminently (circulated 9 August).

Update on FIMS Capabilities (*Courtney Meares-Whitty*)

- Update provided around the key Flight Information Management System capabilities proposed to be included as part of the initial version of UTM Action Plan.

- The UTM Action Plan will provide clarity on Strategic Flight Planning and Situation Awareness, and answer questions around participation requirements. CASA, the Department and Airservices are collaborating closely to maintain alignment. Key items discussed included:
 - o FIMS will be integrating into an open USS market and will provide capabilities to enable strategic flight planning and situational awareness for UAS operators.
 - o Targeting 28 civil controlled aerodromes for the rollout of automated airspace authorisations (AAA) capability as the main priority.
 - o Developing how air traffic controllers can interact with the UTM system and exploring the possibility of moving from manual interfaces to digital interfaces.
 - o Constraint management oversees and disseminates safety rules and operational and airspace restrictions to UAS operators. Not all constraints will be included initially. Australia's federated government system allows states and territories to introduce some local laws which can impact where an RPA can operate (for example, restrictions around corrective facilities and environmental reserves).
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- It was noted that relying solely on voluntary participation in UTM services would make it challenging to use this data as a foundation for a safety case. The voluntary nature of participation proposed in the action plan could inherently limit the scope and richness of data collected on the operating environment, including the comprehensive risk landscape.

Update on USS Integration Plan (*Min Hwang*)

- Airservices confirmed that it will not establish an Airservices Australia USS at this stage; instead choosing to support the industry led development of USS capability through support initiatives. Airservices discussed the RFI launched to ask what support industry needs to establish USS capability.
- CASA, Airservices and the Department will work with industry to test and establish minimum requirements for a USS to participate in the UTM ecosystem. USAN advised that there will be a need for clarity in this space moving forward to align with international developments. This will be discussed at future USAN meetings. Discussion had around the need for a common definition of USS.

Agenda Item 5 – Working Groups

AAA Working Group (*Courtney Meares-Whitty*)

- An update was provided on the AAA working group which had the initial kick off meeting on 9 July 2024. Topics discussed included the reviewing of Terms of Reference, ways of working, meeting cadence, reviewing current state of manual authorisations and AAA trial currently available at 4 aerodromes.

- Meeting notes have been distributed to USAN members and updates will continue to be provided in future USAN meetings.
- Next meeting to be held on the 27 August 2024 and will be predominantly based around the current manual authorisation process so that data can be collated.

Agenda Item 6 – Other business

- Discussion around federated architecture that has been deployed in Dallas, Texas USA. This is a different approach to what is being planned in Australia.
- Boeing are currently doing an Airspace Digital Characterisation, which is working through their Digital Mid Air Collision Risk Model. Aiming to have a full map of Australian airspace in the next 2 years.
- Co-Chair affirmed the need for discussion around Australia's Airspace Operational Concept (including the integration of AAM) and its modernisation and noted that this would require cross government collaboration.

Open Actions

ID	Action	Owner	Due Date
01_01	Members to map industry connections/representation on relevant global bodies and forums. Airservices to launch a closed LinkedIn communication channel for members to share developments.	All members	30-Aug
03_02	Launch a new data working group that will draft a Terms of Reference for the data working group and present the macro problem statement and opportunity	Sharon Marshall-Keefe	30-Sep
05_01	Develop AAM/RPAS Industry Action Plan - Planning certainty for vertiports - Industry reference centre	Jackie Dujmovic Phil Swinsburg	30-Sep
05_02	Develop FIMS/UTM/Integrated Airspace Roadmap that steps out the key actions required to deliver the UTM ecosystem in Australia	Airservices Department CASA	29-Nov
05_05	Launch Education/Engagement Working group. Develop approach for education initiatives with Industry and Government & Glossary of key terms to be drafted, following release of UTM Action Plan	Sasha Nikolic	30-Sep

Attendance

Name	Role	Company	Attendance
Sasha Nikolic (acting chair)	Chair	Airservices Australia	Yes
Luke Gumley	Chair	Airservices Australia	Apology
Reece Clothier	Co-chair	Boeing / Australian Association for Uncrewed Systems (AAUS)	Yes
Min Hwang	Member	Airservices Australia	Yes
Courtney Meares-Whitty	Member	Airservices Australia	Yes
Bridget Kehoe	Member	Airservices Australia	Yes
Sharon Marshall-Keefe	Member	Airservices Australia	Yes
Joseph Houchin	Secretariat	Airservices Australia	Yes
Josh McGregor	Secretariat	Airservices Australia	Apology
Adam Welsh	Member	DJI	Yes
Brendan Williams	Member	Boeing	Yes
Daniel Mackey	Member	Wing Aviation	Apology
Daniel Smith	Member	Qantas	Apology
Dario Valenza	Member	Carbonix	Apology
David Rylance	Member	Fire Rescue Victoria	Yes
David Cole	Member	FlyFreely	Yes
Greg Tyrrell	Member	Australian Association for Uncrewed Systems (AAUS)	Yes
Jackie Dujmovic	Member	Hover UAV	Yes
Jill Bailey	Member	Recreational Aviation Australia	Apology
Jonathan King	Member	AVCRM	Apology
Julian Fraser	Member	Australian Helicopter Industry Association	Yes
Matthew Grayland	Member	Swoop Aero	Apology

Name	Role	Company	Attendance
Nathan Lewis	Member	Department of Defence	Apology
Paul Hardy	Member	Surf Life Saving Pty Ltd	Apology
Philip Swinsburg	Member	Wisk	Yes
Rob Weaver	Member	Eve Air Mobility	Yes
Scott Hamey	Member	SkyLink UAS Pty Ltd	Yes
Scott Mitchell	Member	Virgin Australia	Apology
Tim Boyle	Member	Brisbane Airport Corporation	Yes
Katie Wilkinson	Invitee	Frequentis	Yes
Rebecca Kuster	Invitee	CASA	Yes
Christine Boag-Hodgson	Invitee	CASA	Yes