

UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS

The Global Perspective 2010/2011

PREFACE

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Over the last twelve months, once again, a number of significant unmanned aircraft system (UAS)-related activities have taken place and several important decisions impacting UVS International and the UAS community were taken:

- The European Commission (EC), Directorate General (DG) Mobility and Transport (MOVE), organized their first hearing on Light UAS and came out with recommendations relative to this distinct community.
- Within the framework of its Global Access Initiative, and with cooperation of the International Coordination Council, UVS International conducted a worldwide survey on the non-military applications for Light UAS and submitted it to the European Commission. The EC's report on the Light UAS makes substantial reference to this survey.
- The MidCas programme on «Sense & Avoid» was kicked off under the auspices of the European Defence Agency (EDA).
- The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) organised its first ever Global Air Traffic Management Forum on Civil/Military Cooperation (Oct 2009); this was the first time that UAS were an official agenda item during a plenary meeting at ICAO.
- EUROCAE Working Group 73 found a new chairman.
- EUROCAE WG73 SG4 on Light UAS produced its first deliverable with inputs from the UAS International Coordination Council.
- Members of EUROCAE Working Group 73 Sub-Group 4 on Light UAS instigated an initiative to address the creation of rules and regulations for «minimal risk» very light UAS.
- The European Commission became a member of the ICAO UAS Study Group, which continued its ground-breaking work and elected a new chairman.
- The «Joint Authorities for Rulemaking on Unmanned Systems» (JARUS) continued its federated approach and supplied their first deliverables.
- The EC DG MOVE and EDA announced the co-organization, in co-ordination with Directorate General Enterprise and Directorate General Research, the first European Commission conference on UAS in Brussels, Belgium on 1 July 2010.
- UVS International was invited by the European Commission to join the committee organising their UAS conference.
- UVS International partnered with IDS to organize the UNVEX'10 conference in Madrid, Spain (March 2010).
- UVS International partnered with Eurosatory to organise the UAS 2010 conference at the 2010 Eurosatory Exhibition.
- The number of UAS systems deployed by the allied forces in Afghanistan, as well as the quantity of countries deploying them increased.
- Since last year's edition, the number of UAS referenced in this publication has grown from 1190 to 1329, representing an increase of 12%.

With the intent to continue to bring the global UAV community together and to give the community a means of communicating their views, this edition of the UAS yearbook is being

produced with contributions from 66 international stakeholder organizations. This 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 & RTCA, and between the EC's DG MOVE & EDA, 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. The EC's conference on UAS is a major step in this direction.

This publication, which is now in its 8th edition, once again endeavours to present a photograph of the current worldwide UAS situation and supplies a specific focus on the European UAS community.

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.

In addition, all qualifying organizations (national ministries, EC agencies, NATO agencies & working groups, national governmental organizations agencies, military authorities, regulatory authorities, international organizations, international & national associations with UAS-related activities 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.

In accordance with the objectives of the Global Access Initiative, this edition will be posted on more than 300 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 by bringing the future nearer.

