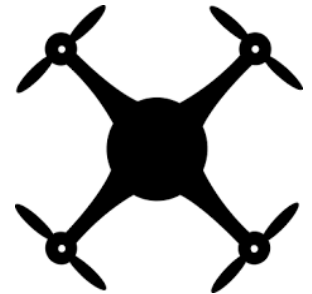




UAS Policy Development Overview



- Background
- Purpose of Policy
- EPA UAS Possible Uses
- Policy Development Process
- Key Policy Content
- Considerations for EPA Offices
- Additional Policy Materials
- Timeline
- Contact



- UAS have become commonly used across the country, both by government and within the private sector
- Need for EPA UAS Policy Identified
 - No written Agency policy
 - EPA UAS use very rare; only after specific waivers
 - Past concerns
 - Privacy
 - Enforcement
- [2015 Presidential Memorandum](#) on UAS requires Federal Agencies to cover:
 - Privacy, civil rights, civil liberties protections, accountability, transparency

- Create a framework through which EPA offices can take advantage of UAS technology.
 - Identify appropriations constraints
 - Outline Privacy Requirements
 - UAS projects that collect data that may have PII must complete a PIA
 - Overview of IT/Security and Data Management Requirements
 - Considerations for using balloons
- Allow EPA to meet mission goals with new data collection capabilities while increasing safety, reducing costs and increasing efficiency.

- Ability to operate in hazardous situations
- Reconnaissance, response & mapping
- Structural integrity assessment
- Releases and chemical, biological, radiological, events
- Logistics and planning support
- Site mapping (aerials for pre- post or ongoing site documentation, volume/3D)
- Terrain modeling (erosion, deforestation, forest mapping, river banks)





Policy Development Process

- Developed as collaborative effort through EPA UAS Workgroup
 - Over 30 members from across the Agency
 - Address/reflect EPA use cases
 - Provide subject matter expertise
- Created [UAS SharePoint Site](#) and a Crosswalk of Federal UAS Policies
- Held information gathering meetings with Other Agencies
 - DOI, USFS, USGS, NASA
- Included Relevant EPA Experts
 - OGC, OCFO, OAM, IT/Security



- Current Limitations on Using UAS at EPA
 - No program at EPA may own any type of UAS.
 - Leasing of UAS is also not currently permissible
 - Only programs supported by EPA's Environmental Programs and Management (EPM) funds may "maintain" and/or "operate" UAS.
- UAS Contract Options for EPA Projects
 - **Contracts and work plans** appropriately funded by EPM funds
 - **Interagency Agreements (IAs):** EPA may use EPM funds to pay another federal agency to maintain and operate a UAS on EPA's behalf. Other funds may be use to attach sensors or analyze data, but may not be used to fund flight.
 - **Grants (including Cooperative Agreement):** EPA grantees are not restricted from using grant funds for UAS-related costs.

*Example scenarios are available in the appendix of the UAS Policy and on the [UAS Sharepoint site](#)

- Requirements for UAS Data Collection and Management
 - Privacy, Civil Rights and Civil Liberties Protections
 - IT Security Requirements
 - Data Management Requirements
- Roles and Responsibilities
 - EPA Office of Mission Support - Administration and Resources Offices
 - EPA Office of Mission Support - Environmental Information Offices
 - EPA Program Offices and Regions



- Consider whether Regional or Program Office Materials are Desired
 - Additional policies, guidance, or SOPs for implementing agency-wide policy
 - May speak to specific program requirements, uses, constraints, concerns, etc.
 - May offer additional guidance for particular EPA offices

- [EPA UAS Policy Fact Sheet](#)
- Coming Soon
 - EPA UAS Website
 - EPA UAS Handbook/Desk Guide
 - Guidance
 - Templates
 - Checklists and Forms



- **Fall 2018:** UAS Policy Workgroup Formed
- **Spring 2019:** Draft UAS Policy Developed
- **Fall/Winter 2019:** UAS Policy Expected to be Complete

*There is a waiver process for large scale emergency response efforts

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