Recommended Legislative Priorities for Commercial Unmanned Aviation

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Robert C. Owen
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University

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- The message: Congress should become more proactive now, not later

Things to Know

Things to Know

- Thousands of *small* commercial unmanned aerial systems (CASs) already in operation

crop dusting	search/rescue
fisheries	ecology
security	real estate
law enforcement	etc.

- Many operating w/o regulation and insurance
  - No regulatory coverage
  - No vehicle, operator, operational standards
  - The above makes insurance difficult to impossible

Things to Know

- "Low-end" systems probably most viable commercially in near term
  - Many already in operation
  - Line-of-sight control regime relatively cheap
  - Small size reduces civil risk
  - Least interference with existing air traffic
  - "Adjunct" pilots least expensive

Things to Know

- "High-end" systems least viable commercially in the near term
  - None in routine *commercial* operation
  - Barriers
    - Lack of permissive regulation
    - Beyond line-of-sight control is expensive
    - Larger size increases civil risk, insurance
    - Significant interference with existing traffic
    - "Dedicated" pilots tend to be expensive

Things to Know

- Regulatory focus has been on high-end systems so far
  - Reflects immediacy of military and manufacturer concerns
  - Does not facilitate most obvious path to commercial development

Things to Know

- We know little about the Commercial UA business case
  - No common language for commercial evaluations
  - Lack of regulation = great cost uncertainties
  - Manufacturers and operators hording information

Legislative Priorities

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- Accelerate the entry of UA into the national airspace and economy
  - Initiate GAO study on requirements?
  - Establish Government-Industry-Academic Tiger Team
  - Include (emphasize?) low-end operations
- Meanwhile, accelerate FAA's process for granting UAV flight Certificates of Authorization

Legislative Priorities

- Charter a Federal “Knowledge Manager”
  - There is imminent need
  - Functions
    - Serve as Center of Expertise for Gov't users
    - Advise and support civil UA analysis, experimentation, operations
    - Mobilize government, academic, commercial, military discourse
    - Champion American leadership

Thank You