Develop Advanced California Specific UAS training

Continuing Developing a Caltrans specific UAS training program for following a pilot training program that was completed in August 2019.

WHAT IS THE NEED?

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) has authorized the use of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) to conduct UAS operations within the state highway system and for Caltrans business. Incorporating UAS into Caltrans business practices can increase safety and efficiency, decrease cost, and help Caltrans meet its mission, vision, and goals more efficiently and effectively.

The use of UAS improves worker safety by limiting worker exposure to elevated, unstable, or hard to reach locations such as bridges, cliffs, and ravines. UAS allows faster data gathering in the field, limiting overall worker exposure, faster inspections in case of an emergency, and improving response effort.

WHAT ARE WE DOING?

The research team will collaborate with Universities to research and develop UAS training programs for Caltrans drone remote pilots. Development of the training program will include curriculum, instruction, hands-on training, mentorship, tiered pilot qualification, train-the-trainer, flight simulation, and examination/credentialing. Training program scope may include regulations, Federal Aviation Administration exam preparation, safety, maneuvers, and emergency procedures.

WHAT IS OUR GOAL?

The UAS training program will incorporate the formal procedures and baseline standard instilled by management. When feasible, the processes and procedures will be discussed in practical and realistic scenarios. Caltrans specific forms and procedures will be utilized.

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in practice and hands-on activities if preferred; and general procedures and processes will be discussed at a high-level during indoor curriculum.

WHAT IS THE BENEFIT?

In the proposed program, the research team will establish a UAS operation training course to serve the needs of Caltrans. This training course will be a hands-on, 3-day intensive session that covers a wide range of topics such as regulatory requirements of the operation of UAS, best practices for safety and risk mitigation, documented certified measures of flight performance standards, and equipment management.

WHAT IS THE PROGRESS TO DATE?

The project will begin in late December 2019.