Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) Integration in the National Airspace System (NAS) Project

Korea Visit
# UAS-NAS Project Lifecycle

**Timeframe for impact: 2025**

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<th>Prior</th>
<th>Phase 1 [FY11 - FY13]</th>
<th>Phase 2 [FY17 - FY20]</th>
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<td>Flight Validated Research Findings to Inform Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Decision Making</td>
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<td>Integrated Modeling, Simulation, &amp; Flight Testing</td>
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- **Key Decision Points**
  - SC-228 Deliverables, i.e. Minimum Operational Performance Standards (MOPS) Complete

**Phase 1 [FY14 - FY16]**

- Initial Modeling, Simulation, & Flight Testing
- Integrated Modeling, Simulation, & Flight Testing

**Phase 2 [FY17 - FY20]**

- Integrated Modeling, Sim, & Flight Testing
- Close-out

**Technical input from**
- Project technical elements
- NASA Research Announcements
- Industry, Academia, Other Government Agencies
- Project Annual Reviews
- ARMD UAS Cohesive Strategy

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UAS-NAS Project Overview

Project Goal

Provide research findings, utilizing simulation and flight tests, to support the development and validation of DAA and C2 technologies necessary for integrating Unmanned Aircraft Systems into the National Airspace System

Technical Challenge-DAA: Detect and Avoid (DAA)

Technical Challenge-C2: Command and Control (C2)

Technical Challenge-SIO: System Integration and Operationalization (SIO)
FAA Organizational Relationships

• The FAA is using several domestic forums, in conjunction with several international forums to lay out the pathway for their priorities and investments.

FAA UAS Center of Excellence performs strategic research to guide the FAA, while the test sites contribute essential inputs through UAS testing.

World Radio Conference (WRC) and International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) UAS Study Groups are addressing UAS access from an international perspective.

Industry developed technologies and vehicles brought directly to the FAA for risk based certification processes, inclusion special projects such as Pathfinders.

Standards Organizations chartered to develop Technology Standards, such as RTCA SC-228 Detect and Avoid (DAA) and Command and Control (C2) MOPS.

Inter-government groups such as the UAS Executive Committee (ExCom), Senior Steering groups, OSD Sense and Avoid (SAA) Science and Research Panel (SARP), and Research Transition Teams (RTTs).

UAS Aviation Rulemaking Committee (ARC) groups implemented to solve specific problems as directed by the FAA.

NASA has a leadership role within many domestic forums and participates in the international forums.
RTCA SC-228 Phase 1 MOPS Terms of Reference

- RTCA SC-228 Terms of Reference (ToR) defined a path forward to develop Minimum Operational Performance Standards (MOPS)

- Phase 1 MOPS are addressed by UAS-NAS Current (FY14 – FY16) Portfolio
  - Command and Control (C2) Data Link MOPS – Performance Standards for the C2 Data Link using L-Band Terrestrial and C-Band Terrestrial data links
  - Detect and Avoid (DAA) MOPS – Performance standards for transitioning of a UAS to and from Class A or special use airspace, traversing Class D and E, and perhaps Class G airspace

- SC-228 Deliverables to RTCA PMC
  - C2 and DAA White Papers (Dec 2013) - Assumptions, approach, and core requirements for UAS DAA and C2 Equipment
  - C2, DAA, and Radar MOPS for Verification and Validation (Jul 2015) – Preliminary MOPS Including recommendations for a Verification and Validation test program
  - C2 Final MOPS (Jul 2016)
  - DAA and Radar Final MOPS (Nov 2016)
RTCA SC-228 P2 MOPS Terms of Reference

• RTCA SC-228 Terms of Reference (ToR) defined a path forward to develop Minimum Operational Performance Standards (MOPS)
  – Phase 1 MOPS were addressed by UAS-NAS (FY14 – FY16) Portfolio
  – Phase 2 MOPS included in the original ToR, but had several TBDs
    • ToR development team established to ensure DAA & C2 scope broad enough to fully enable the operating environments relevant UAS were expected to leverage (e.g. Manned Like IFR and Tweeners)

• Phase 2 MOPS ToR Scope
  – C2: Use of SATCOM in multiple bands and terrestrial extensions as a C2 Data Link to support UAS and address networking interoperability standards for both terrestrial and satellite systems
  – DAA: Extended UAS operations in Class D, E, and G, airspace, and applicability to a broad range of civil UAS capable of operations Beyond Visual Line of Sight (BVLOS)

• SC-228 Final Documents

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<th>Phase 1 (To Be Published 2016)</th>
<th>Phase 2</th>
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<tr>
<td>• C2 Terrestrial Datalink MOPS</td>
<td>• C2 SATCOM &amp; Network MASPS (Oct 2017 &amp; Jan 2019)</td>
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<tr>
<td>• DAA MOPS</td>
<td>• C2 SATCOM Data Link MOPS (Jul 2019*)</td>
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<tr>
<td>• DAA Air to Air Radar MOPS</td>
<td>• C2 Terrestrial Data Link MOPS Rev A (Jul 2020)</td>
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* Date under discussion within RTCA SC-228
UAS-NAS Project Value Proposition

**NASA UAS-NAS Project Activities**

**C2 Performance Standards**
- Develop C2 Prototype SATCOM Systems
- Develop C2 Prototype Terrestrial System
- Conduct C2 Flight Test and MS&A
  - Data Link
  - CNPC Spectrum
  - CNPC Security
  - BVLOS/BRLOS
  - ATC Interoperability
- Develop C2 Requirements

**DAA Performance Standards**
- Develop DAA Test beds
- Conduct DAA Flight Test and MS&A
  - Human Factors
  - Performance Trade-offs
  - CONOPS
  - Well Clear
  - Interoperability
  - Collision Avoidance
  - Self Separation
- Develop DAA Performance & Interoperability Requirements

**Integrated Test & Evaluation**
- Develop DAA Prototype System
- Develop Live Virtual Constructive (LVC) Test Infrastructure
- Conduct Technology and CONOPS testing

**Key Products**
- SATCOM MOPS
- GBDAA MOPS
- Non-Coop Sensor MOPS

**Resultant Outcomes**
- C2 Technical Standard Order (TSO)
- DAA Technical Standard Order (TSO)
Project Goal

Provide research findings, utilizing simulation and flight tests, to support the development and validation of DAA and C2 technologies necessary for integrating Unmanned Aircraft Systems into the National Airspace System.

Technical Challenge-DAA: Detect and Avoid (DAA)

Technical Challenge-C2: Command and Control (C2)

Technical Challenge-SIO: System Integration and Operationalization (SIO)
UAS Satcom and Terrestrial Command and Control Operating Environments (OE)

Legend
- Phase 1 Research Areas (FY14 – FY16)
- Phase 2 Research Areas (FY17 – FY20)

SATCOM C2 Data Link

Communications Satellite

C-Band SATCOM Link

Ku/Ka SATCOM Link

Terrestrial C2 Data Link

Cooperative Traffic

“IFR-like” UAS

Top of Class G

SATCOM Transmitter

“VFR-like” UAS

10K’ MSL

18K’ MSL

FL-600

Terrestrial C2 Data Link Network

CNPC Network

CNPC Ground Stations

UAS Ground Control Station

UAS Ground Control Station

Land Line

Terrestrial C2 Data Link

SATCOMBRLOS Link

Non-cooperative Traffic

Phase 1 Research Areas (FY14 – FY16)

Phase 2 Research Areas (FY17 – FY20)
C2 Subproject Structure for Project Phase 2

Command and Control
<TC-C2>
Subproject Manager (SPM)  
Mike Jarrell, GRC
Subproject Technical Leads  
Jim Griner, GRC

Ku/Ka-Band SATCOM  
Terrestrial Extension  
C-Band SATCOM  
Integrated Flight Test Support (IT&E TWP)

C2 Performance Standards

Develop C2 Prototype System  
Conduct C2 Flight Test and MS&A  
Data Link  
CNPC Spectrum  
CNPC Security  
BVLOS/BRLOS  
ATC Interoperability  
Develop C2 Requirements  
C2 Performance Requirements to inform C2 MOPS  
C2 MOPS  
RTCA

C2 Technical Standard Order (TSO)
Recent Accomplishments: C2 Phase 1 MOPS

Spectrum Compatibility Analysis
Objective: Develop data and rationale to obtain appropriate frequency spectrum allocations to enable the safe and efficient operation of UAS in the NAS

Accomplishment: NASA conducted sharing study results delivered at the 2015 World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-15) to support Ku & Ka Band frequency Allocations

Verify and Validate C2 MOPS Requirements
Objective: Analyze the performance of fifth generation Control and Non-Payload Communication System (CNPC) prototypes

Accomplishment: Utilized Gen-5 radios at three CNPC ground stations and onboard GRC S-3B aircraft in order to collect data for performance in two relevant environments

Final C2 MOPS released through RTCA in July 2016
Provide research findings, utilizing simulation and flight tests, to support the development and validation of DAA and C2 technologies necessary for integrating Unmanned Aircraft Systems into the National Airspace System.
Detect and Avoid (DAA) Performance Standard Operating Environments (OE)

Legend
Phase 1 Research Areas (FY14 – FY16)
Phase 2 Research Areas (FY17 – FY20)

DAA System for Operational Altitudes (> 500ft AGL)

HALE aircraft

DAA System for Transition to Operational Altitude

Cooperative Traffic

Non-cooperative Aircraft

“VFR-like” UAS

Top of Class G

"VFR-like" UAS

Alternative DAA Sensors

ACAS Xu

ADS-B & ACAS Xu

ADS-B & TCAS–II

C2 Datalink

Airborne Radar

Terminal Area Ops

Ground Based Radar

GBDAA Data

UAS Ground Control Station
DAA Subproject Structure for Project Phase 2

Detect and Avoid
<TC-DAA>
Subproject Manager (SPM)
Jay Shively, ARC
Subproject Technical Leads
Confesor Santiago, ARC, Tod Lewis, LaRC, TBD, ARC

Alternate Surveillance Requirements
Well Clear Alerting Requirements
ACAS Xu
External Collaborations
Integrated Events

SAA Performance Standards

Develop DAA Test beds
Conduct SAA Flight Test and MS&A
Human Factors
Performance Trade-offs
Interoperability
Self Separation
CONOPS
Well Clear
Collision Avoidance

Develop SAA Performance & Interoperability Requirements

SAA Performance Requirements to inform DAA MOPS

RTCA
DAA MOPS

SAA Technical Standard Order (TSO)
Separation from other Aircraft

Detect-and-Avoid

CFR 91.113: “...each person operating an aircraft [shall] see and avoid other aircraft ... the pilot shall give way to that aircraft and may not pass over, under or ahead of it unless well clear.”

- Time horizons of applicability are not to scale

*Time horizons of applicability are not to scale*
Recent Accomplishments: DAA Phase 1 MOPS

**Human Systems Integration “Part Task 6”**

Objective: Conduct final V&V activity in support of the SC-228 DAA human machine interface requirements for displays, alerting, and guidance

Accomplishment: Verified pilot performance against minimum requirements, re-evaluated performance differences between a standalone and integrated DAA displays

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**DAA End to End V&V**

Objective: Verify and Validate (V&V) a MOPS-representative Detect and Avoid (DAA) system in an End-to-End simulation environment representative of the MOPS

Accomplishment: Final closed-loop, pilot (model)-in-the-loop, end-to-end simulation evaluation of MOPS leveraging encounter sets from MOPS test cases & MIT/LL NAS encounter model

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Final DAA MOPS scheduled to be released through RTCA in December 2016
IT&E Subproject Structure for Project Phase 2

Integrated Test & Evaluation
<TC-ITE>
Subproject Manager (SPM)
Heather Maliska, AFRC
Subproject Technical Leads
Sam Kim, AFRC, Jim Murphy, ARC

Integration of Technologies into LVC-DE
Simulation Planning & Integration
LVC-DE Infrastructure Sustainment
Integrated Flight Test

Develop DAA Prototype System
Develop Live Virtual Constructive (LVC) Test Infrastructure
Conduct Technology and CONOPS testing

Re-usable Test Infrastructure
ACAS Xu FT2
Conduct FT5 Test Scenarios
Conduct FT6 Test Scenarios
UAS-NAS Project - DAA and C2 Operational View Representation

**SatCom BVLOS Communications**

**Terrestrial C2**

**Airborne Detect and Avoid**

**IFR-Like Airspace Integration**

**VFR-Like Airspace Integration**

**IFR-Like Airspace Integration**

**LEGEND**
- Detect and Avoid (DAA) Technologies
- Air Traffic Control (ATC) Services
- Control and Non-Payload Communications (CNPC) Network
- Command and Control (C2) Links

**ACRONYMS**
- ACAS Xu: Airborne Collision Avoidance System, UAS Variant
- ADS–B: Automatic Dependent Surveillance—Broadcast
- BRLOS: Beyond Radio Line of Site
- BVLOS: Beyond Visual Line of Site
- TCAS–II: Traffic Alert and Collision Avoidance System
- UAS: Unmanned Aircraft Systems

**Communications Satellite**

**SatCom Transmitter**

**Land Line**

**UAS Ground Control Station**

**Non-cooperative Aircraft**

**Alternative DAA Sensors**

**“mid-sized” test aircraft**

**CNPC Ground Stations**

**Terrestrial C2 Link**

**UAS Ground Control Station**

**Non-cooperative Aircraft**

**Ground Based Radar**

**Terminal Airspace Airspace Integration**

**ATC Interoperability**

**Ground Based Detect & Avoid**

**Aircraft**

**DAA Sensors**

**UAS test aircraft**

**ADS–B & TCAS–II / ACAS Xu**

**UAS: Unmanned Aircraft Systems**

**ACSN**

**DAA and C2 Operational View Representation**
UAS-NAS Build-up of IT&E Infrastructure for P1 Flight Test

Risk Reduction Approach To Integrated Test Flow
- Each test built upon the previous and reduced future risk.
- Lessons learned applied from one test to the next.

Timeline Not To Scale

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Recent Accomplishments: DAA Phase 1 MOPS

Integrated Test and Evaluation FT4

Objective:
• Conduct Flight Test Series 4 integrating the latest SSI algorithms, HSI displays, and active test aircraft sensors using the Live, Virtual, Constructive test environment
• Document the performance of the test infrastructure in meeting the flight test requirements

Accomplishment: FT4 successfully completed on 6/30/2016
• 2 system checkout and 19 data collection flight tests
• 11 weeks (April 12 - June 30)
• 321 air-to-air encounters

Final DAA MOPS scheduled to be released through RTCA in December 2016
IT&E Capabilities: Providing the Infrastructure for Flight Testing

• Ownship – Ikhana
  – Build-up of DAA system (radar/ADS-B/TCAS) to meet researcher requirements
  – Logged over 190 hours of flight time with Ikhana for ACAS Xu, FT3 and FT4 data collection flights

• Intruder aircraft – 6 total aircraft
  – Met researcher objectives to represent many classes of aircraft
    • Slow-Speed, Mid-Speed, High-Speed
    • Cooperative vs. Non-Cooperative
    • Small, medium, large radar cross section
  – Equipped 4 aircraft with required sensors
  – Coordinated 25 crew members from 3 organizations
    • NASA, Air Force, Honeywell

• Flight Test Stats
  – ACAS Xu: 9 flights, 170 encounters flown (1 intruder)
  – FT3: 11 flights, 212 encounters flown (multiple intruders)
  – FT4: 19 flights, 321 encounters flown (up to 4 intruders/enc.)
IT&E Capabilities:
Encounter Design and Range Coordination

Airspace Planning

• Primarily Mercury Spin, 4 Corners & Buckhorn MOA (red outline)
• 1,000 ft AGL (4.2K ft) to 20K ft MSL
• Extensions (west / north) may be requested real time for encounters that need the additional airspace
• Ops outside of test area (blue shaded areas) are planned to be performed early (before 0800) when airspace is relatively empty
• Operations between 0600 and 0700 are under Joshua control and have less geographical constraints

Airspace Extensions (Blue Shaded Areas)

• Conducted early 0600-0800 preferably
• Pre-coordinated 24-48 hours in advance
• Requested real-time with SPORT (after 0700)

• Coordination with Edwards Range
  – Coordination of range/operating area borders and UAS keep out zones.
  – Ikhana must remain within R-2515 at all times.
  – Intruder aircraft can use Buckhorn MOA, plus areas shaded in blue

• Encounter design accomplished by operations working group with researchers and partners.
  – Encounter requirements coordinated with System Safety Working Group to ensure flight safety.
  – Mitigations designed into flight test planning (safe separation, training, testing, offsets, procedures, etc.)
**Flight Test Card #1**

**Card Number:** 171-Gc-M3M

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**Card Details:**
- **Lost Link Mission:** 10
- **Deconfliction Alt:** 10000
- **Abort Procedure:** Maintain heading at 10000
- **Comex Time:**
  - **WPT:** IP15
  - **Latitude:** N34°15'.167"
  - **Longitude:** W117°36'.715"
  - **Alt:** 10000
  - **Dist:** 6.0
  - **KGS:** 180
  - **Leg Time:** 3+00
- **WPT:** MP27
  - **Latitude:** N34°51'.402"
  - **Longitude:** W117°36'.421"
  - **Alt:** 10000
  - **Dist:** 6.0
  - **KGS:** 180
  - **Leg Time:** 3+00
- **WPT:** CPA32
  - **Latitude:** N34°53'.322"
  - **Longitude:** W117°30'.174"
  - **Alt:** 10000
  - **Dist:** 6.0
  - **KGS:** 180
  - **Leg Time:** 3+00

**Notes:**
- **Comex Maneuver:** Intruder 1 - CPD Guidance. Intruder 2 TCAS
- **Guidances can be to Climb or Maintain Altitude.**
- **Tolerance:** ±8 sec, ±5 kts

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**Card Details:**
- **Lost Link Mission:** 10
- **Deconfliction Alt:** 11000
- **Abort Procedure:** Right 123
- **Comex Time:**
  - **WPT:** IP11E
  - **Latitude:** N34°53'.265"
  - **Longitude:** W117°34'.285"
  - **Alt:** 10000
  - **Dist:** 6.0
  - **KGS:** 180
  - **Leg Time:** 3+00

**Notes:** Do not overshoot planned route. Expect ownship maneuver.
Summary

• UAS-NAS Project has developed robust capabilities supporting initial developments of DAA and C2 Technologies

• Significant work is remaining to lead the community towards ensuring DAA and C2 technology are interoperable with the entire National Airspace System.

• The project is dedicated to driving the community towards robust and innovative solutions that apply to DAA, C2, and other necessary vehicle technologies