

Innovate Relentlessly

Enabling Innovation in Aviation While Respecting It's Safety Tradition

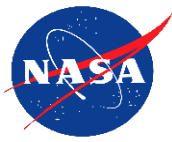
Parimal Kopardekar, Ph.D.

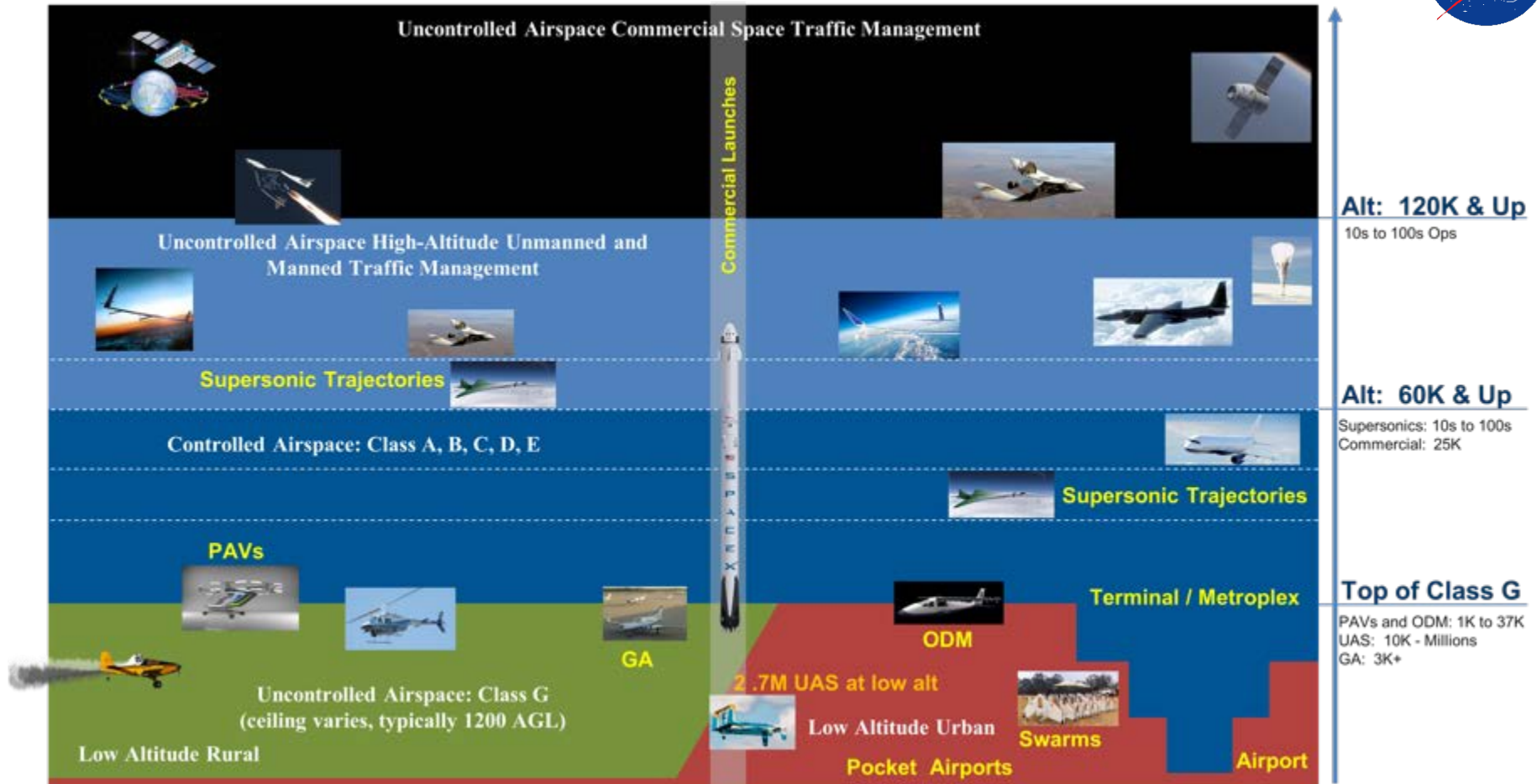
NASA Senior Technologist for Air Transportation System

Acting Director, NASA Aeronautics Research Institute

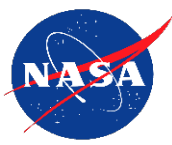
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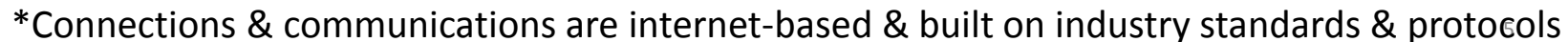
CURRENT AIRSPACE OPERATIONS





SMALL UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS





Technology Capability Levels (TCLs)

TCL 1, 2 and 3 (in progress)



TCL3
March 2018



TCL 2 demo:
Oct 2016

Operational Area

UAS Range
Executive Summary
Data: Terrain
Mission: up to 500 ft
Operations at 5 locations

State of Nevada Test Site

Reno

ISR Hawk Radar
GEOINT/INT/ELINT/ASD

Weather Equipment
30 ft
10 ft
5 ft
1 ft

Hand-Guided Ascent

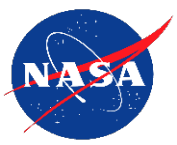


Participating Orgs

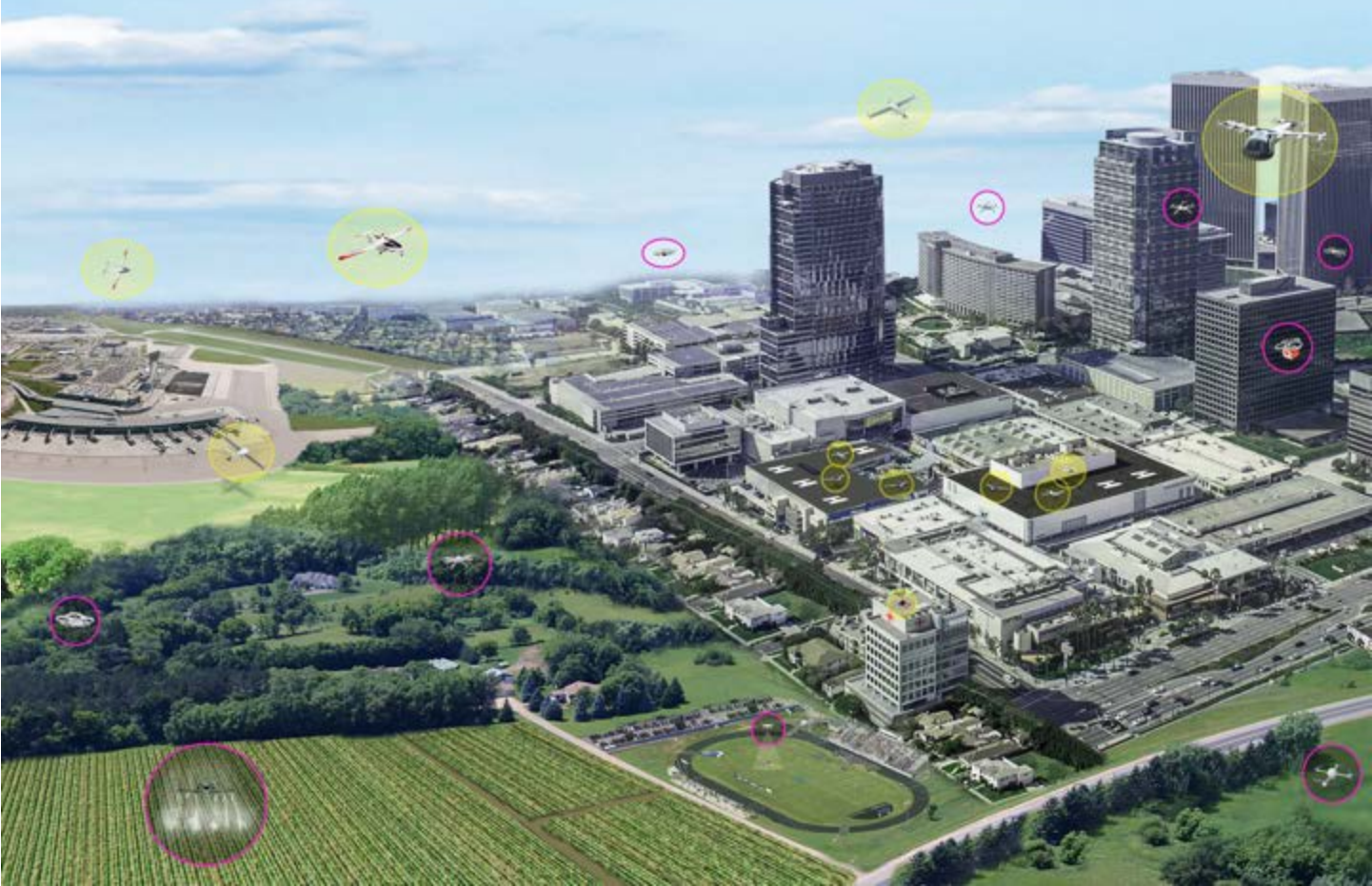
TCL 1	19
TCL 2	42
TCL 3	35

Transformation – Urban Air Mobility

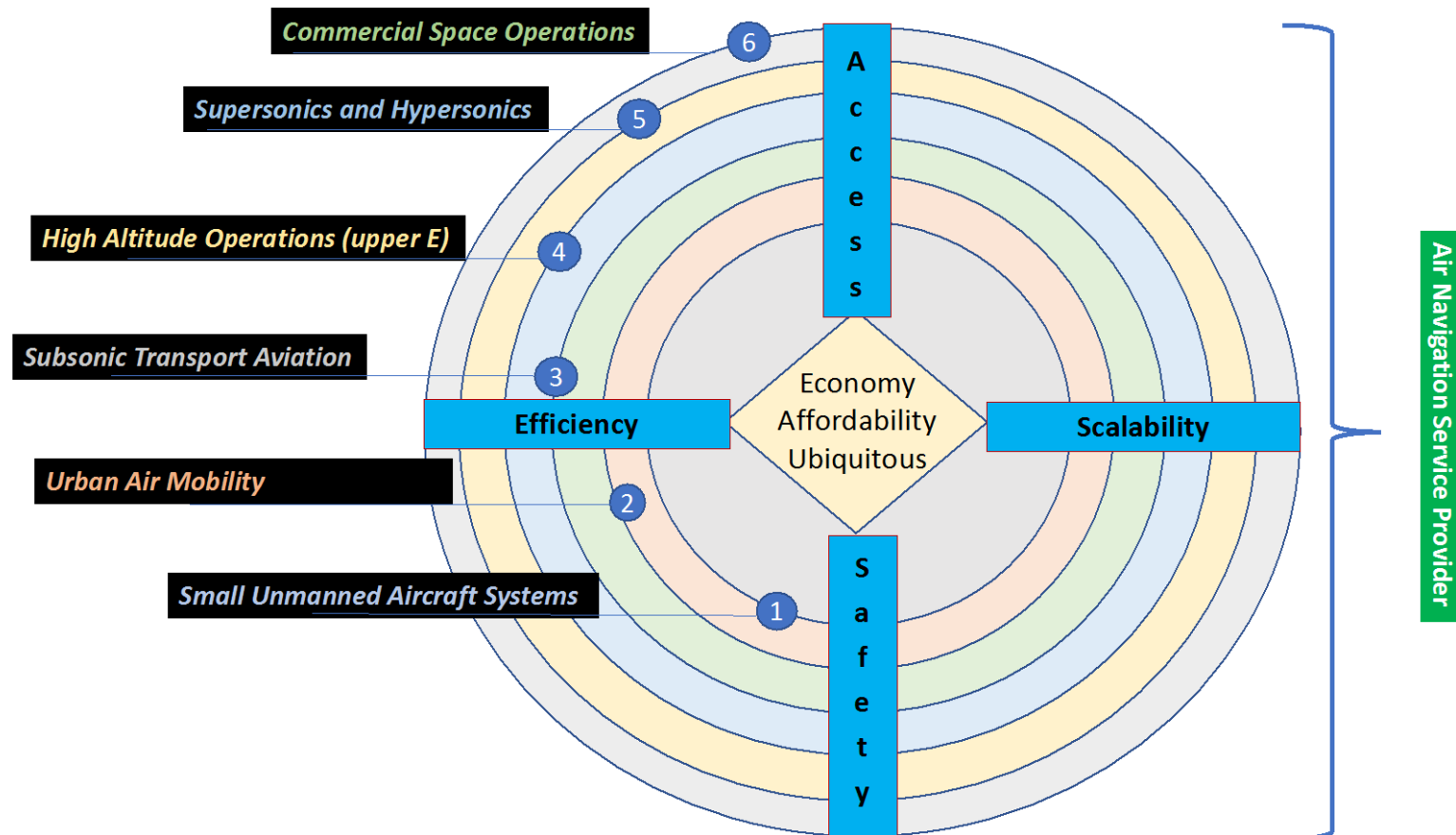
Increasingly autonomous – focused on access, safety and scalability

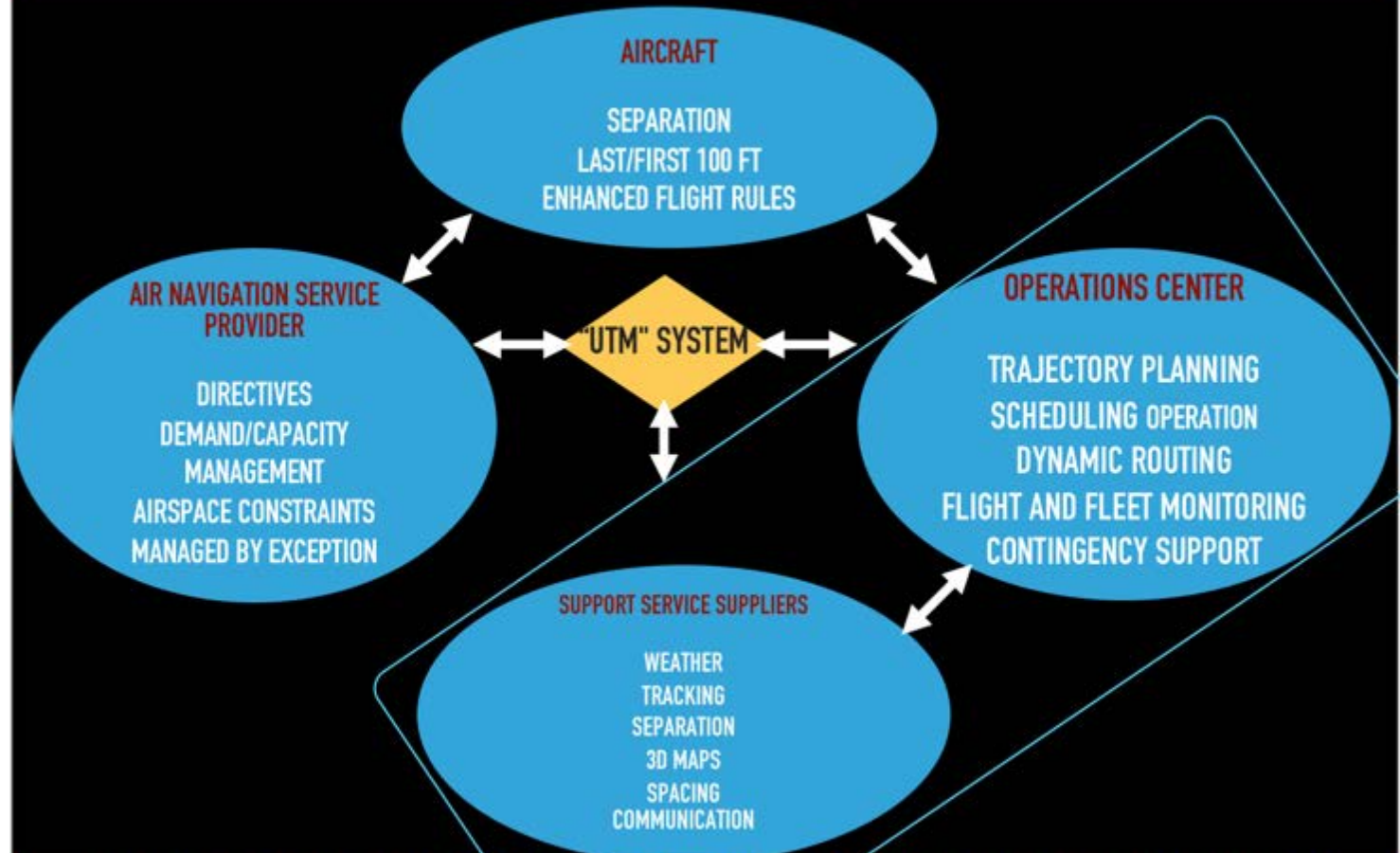
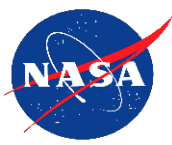


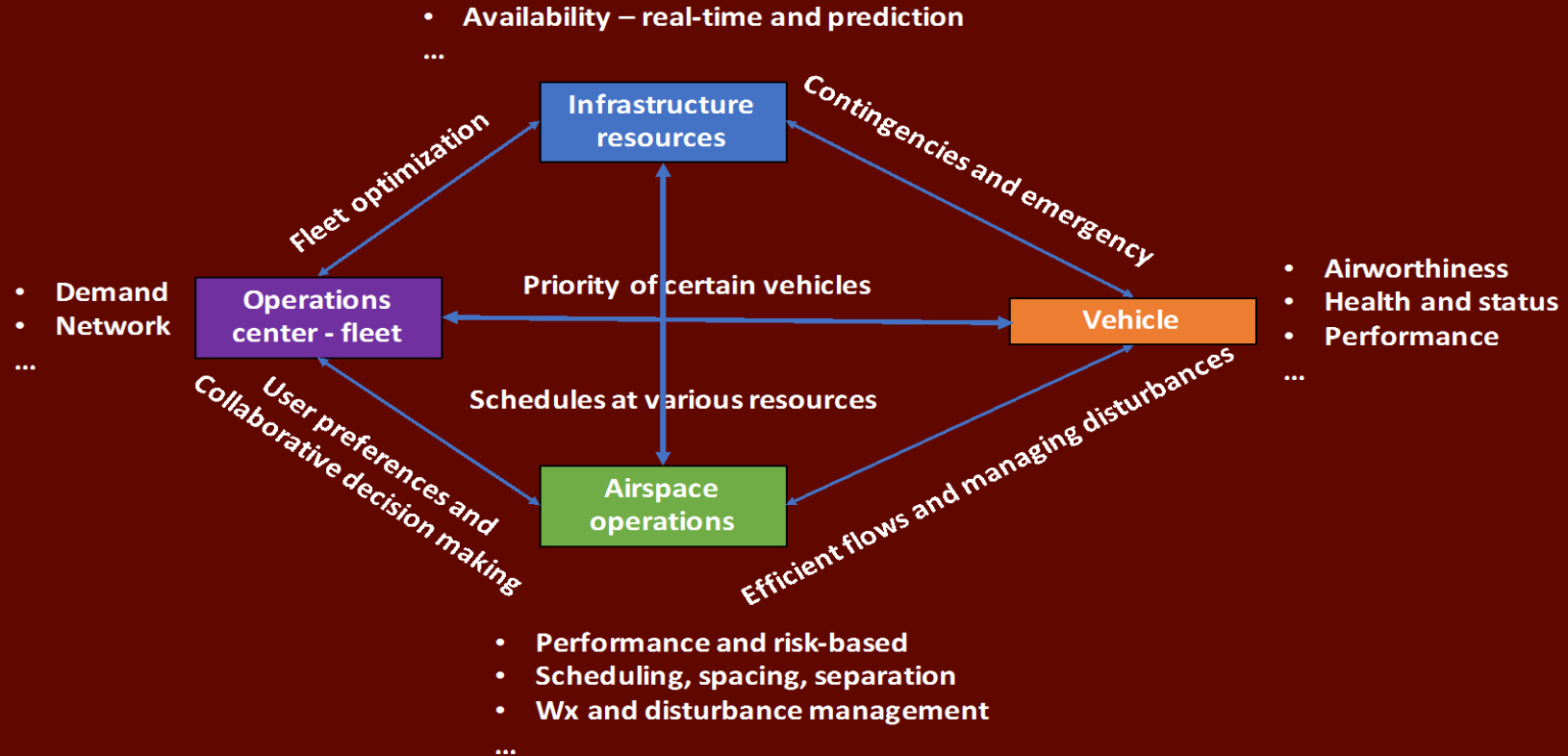
URBAN AIR MOBILITY: SMALL DRONES TO LARGER PASSENGER CARRYING VTOLS



Emerging and Heritage Users







Autonomy alone will not lead to efficiency and large-scale disturbance management
Connectivity is crucial – air/ground/cloud/infrastructure integration will be key



- **Cooperative**
- **Intent-sharing**
- **Digital: data exchanges among operators**
- **Standardized application protocol interfaces**
- **Air/ground integrated**
- **Service-oriented architecture**
- **Role for third parties**

Space Traffic Management

High Altitude UTM (upper E)

Conventional Manned Aviation (Class A, B, C, D, E)

Urban Air Mobility

Low-altitude small UAS



Increasingly Autonomous and Connected Operations

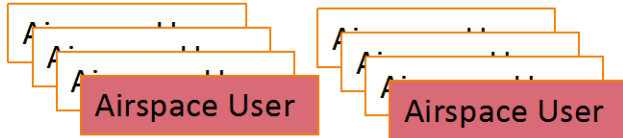
Current ATM

All services are provided by the FAA

- Traffic flow management
- Airspace directives/constraints
- Scheduling, sequencing and spacing
- Separation management
- Off-nominal management
- Every vehicle interaction in real-time

FAA Systems

Humans address off-nominal and contingencies



Very little interaction among users, and 3rd party services

- Human in the epi-center of information integration
- Every data moves through FAA systems for every vehicle
- Each change focused in on domain-specific FAA system

UTM-inspired-ATM

Some services are provided by FAA

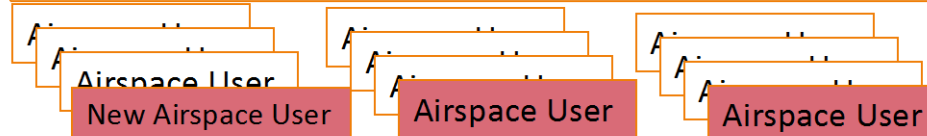
- Airspace directives/constraints
- Resource availability and changes to resources (e.g., arrival/departure rates, resource schedules)
- Separation

FAA Systems

User or third party services

- Flow management
- Sequencing, and spacing
- User participation strategic Separation (e.g., oceanic)

Automation addresses off-nominal and contingencies

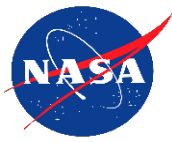


Users collaborate/cooperate for efficiency, intra-user preferences for flights into constrained resources

- Automation in the epi-center of information integration
- New paradigm: digital and connected ecosystems-outside apps, scalability

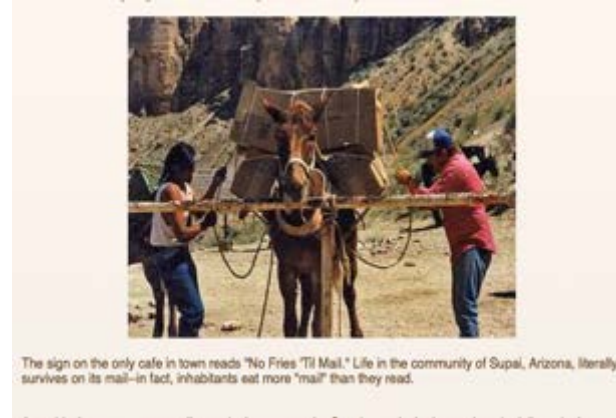
NASA Unique Role: Architecture, data exchange, service allocation/roles/responsibilities, rules of engagement, service performance requirements, automation for contingency management and disruption handling, machine learning environment and algorithms for continuous improvement, safety assurance, certification/acceptance approaches, and technology transitions

Airspace Operations: Much Room for Impact



Barbara S. Wiles mailboat on Skaneateles Lake to retire; new boat launches July 1

Posted on April 15, 2016 at 10:15 AM



The sign on the only cafe in town reads "No Fries 'Til Mail." Life in the community of Supai, Arizona, literally survives on its mail—in fact, inhabitants eat more "mail" than they read.



Inter-island Autonomous Cargo Delivery

single pilot, off-board manager, or fully autonomous



Future airspace operations?



- Scalable – increasingly autonomous
- Cooperative – information needs, and technologies for cooperation among vehicles, and operators, and service providers
- Digital – data exchanges and standardized application protocols
- Resilient – technologies and procedures for faster recovery from disruptions
- Manage by exception – flexibility where possible and structure where necessary
- Safety assurance – in-time data, prognostics, V&V of increasingly autonomous systems
- Air/ground/cloud integrated
- Service oriented architecture – third party

Space Traffic Management

High Altitude UTM (upper E)

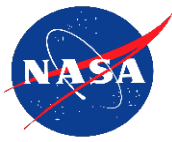
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airspace operations

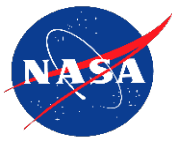
enabling beyond possible!



Concluding Remarks

- Need for change is real, current systems are not sustainable
- Sense of urgency due to emerging markets and diversity of operations
- Build-a-little-test-a-little and deploy
- Research issues remain – however goal should be “cross the finish line” to improve operations – research is means to an end and not an end in itself
- Highly scaled operations that are affordable and safe

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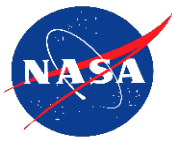
embracing innovation in aviation while respecting it's safety tradition



BACK UP

Scalable, Safe, and Efficient Autonomous Operations

Goal: Enable autonomous operations in the national airspace system



- **Motivation:**

- Smaller and medium size autonomous cargo delivery market is emerging
- Use of upper and lower airspace is increasing where there are no services
- Pilot shortage is looming – Regular transport category for short/long haul flights
- Future urban air mobility operations business case depends on autonomous operation

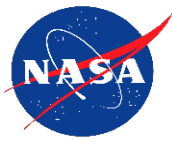
- **Enable autonomous freighter operations** by integrated air/ground/cloud

- Rationale: Regardless of level of autonomy, integration is key - SWA
- Initial operational evaluation (TRL 4)
- Demonstration leading up to daily use operations (TRL 6+)

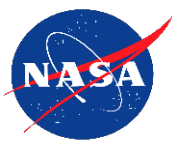


- **Autonomous urban air mobility vehicle operations** – cargo and/or passengers through integrated air/ground/cloud capabilities under nominal and off-nominal condition

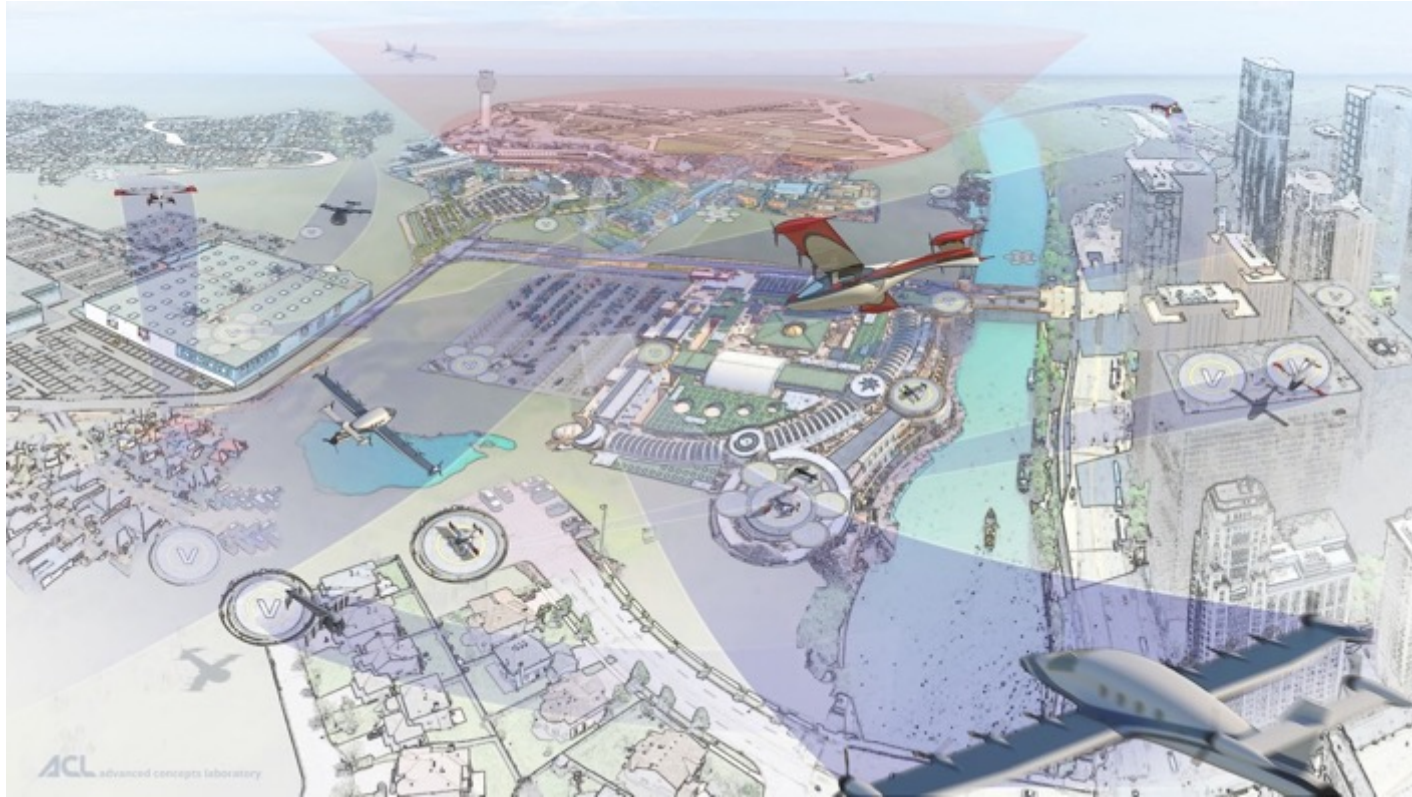
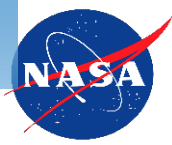
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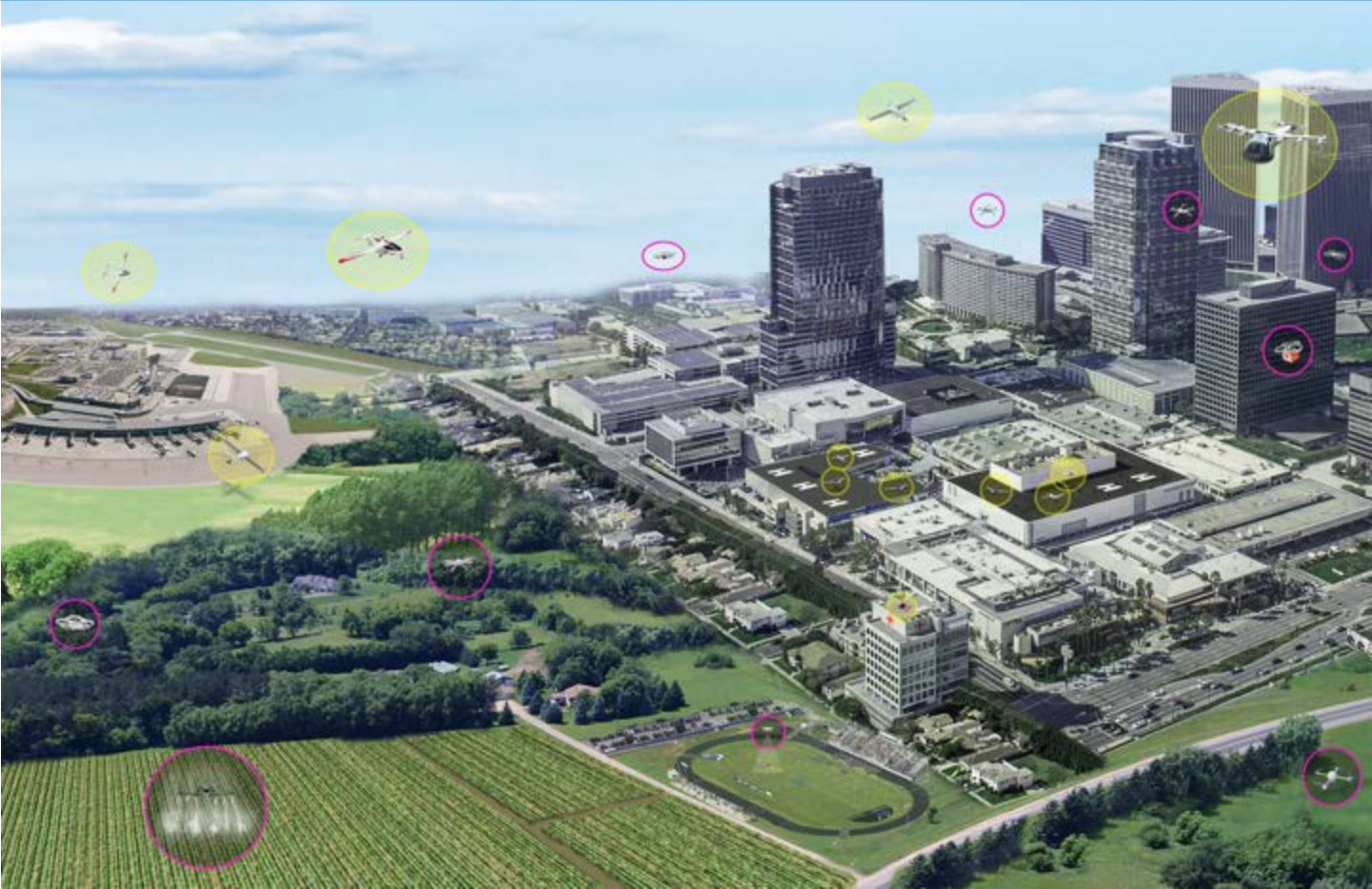
SMALL UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS



VERTICAL TAKE OFF AND LANDING



URBAN AIR MOBILITY: SMALL DRONES TO LARGER PASSENGER CARRYING VTOLS



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