Small UAS Test Area at NASA’s Dryden Flight Research Center

Edwards Air Force Base, CA
Small UAS Test Area
FAST & Efficient Test Capability

• Three test areas have been established within the restricted airspace of R2508 at Edwards AFB
  – NO FAA interface required for flight approval

• Rosamond North and South are 1 square nautical mile with operation ceilings of 500 and 3000 feet above ground level (AGL) respectively

• The larger SUAS work area located predominantly over the northern portion of Rogers dry lake is approximately 12 square miles with an operational ceiling of 8,000 feet AGL

• For operations where the vehicle performance is constrained to the approved areas a rapid approval process has been established.

• For operations where vehicle performance can not be constrained to within the approved areas or for operations that require additional air space, additional but still simplified review and flight approval process is possible
Minimum Requirement

• Minimum Commitment $10,000 for new projects
• Funds required in advance of initial flight operation
• Minimum commitment will be used to cover initial operational costs
  – i.e. this covers up to $10,000 of operational costs. If operational costs are less than $10,000 no refund will be processed
  – Funds deposited in excess of $10,000 that are not used to cover operational costs will be refunded
Operational Costs

• $1,500/ 8 hour shift for supervised operations
• $750/ 8 hour shift for unsupervised operations
• $1,250 for new or changed requirement
  – Examples of requests subject to the change fee would be; test area change, change from day to night ops, bring in a new aircraft type for testing, etc
Agreement

• NASA Space Act Agreement
  – Standard template developed allows for rapid approval by NASA
  – Agreement does not require surrender of intellectual property or transfer of assets to NASA
Process

- Initiate contact
- Complete questionnaire
- Sign MOA
- Send funding
- Complete spectrum check
- Schedule operation
- Fly

- This process can occur in as little as a week provided the questionnaire is filled out completely
Points of Contact

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