



RTCA, Inc.
1150 18th Street, NW, Suite 910
Washington, DC 20036
Phone: (202) 833-9339
Fax: (202) 833-9434
www.rtca.org

September 11, 2017

Daniel Elwell, Deputy Administrator/Chief NextGen Officer
Federal Aviation Administration
800 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20591

Dear Deputy Administrator Elwell:

On behalf of Drone Advisory Committee (DAC) Chairman, Brian Krzanich, President & CEO of Intel Corporation, I am pleased to convey the interim recommendations from the July 21st meeting of the DAC.

The attached interim report (including the recommendations) was approved during the meeting (and is attached). This interim report primarily makes recommendations about funding sources for the next 24 months (defined as “near term”), considers what activities should be prioritized, and who should be responsible for funding UAS integration activities (Appendix 1). Consensus was reached on the following points, (included in the attached report):

- All regulations, policies, and standards necessary in the next 24 months should be developed primarily by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), with significant industry input. We recommend that Congress appropriate additional funding and increase FAA staffing to address this ambitious work schedule.
- The research and development, and system development necessary in the next 24 months, should be shared between government and industry.
- Communications, outreach, and training necessary in the next 24 months should be shared between government and industry, depending on the activity.
- Any recommended funding structure should not alter the current structure of funding for traditional, manned aviation.
- In the future, the UAS industry may be expected to pay for the operation, maintenance, and modernization of an automated Unmanned Traffic Management (UTM) system through a yet-to-be-created “pay-for-what-you-use” funding model.

The final version of this report will include “long-term” recommendations and is set to be finalized in early 2018. The DAC continues to develop recommendations for the FAA that will be reviewed at the next Drone Advisory Committee meeting in November of 2017. We look forward to working with you and your office in the ongoing work related to integration of unmanned systems into the National Airspace System.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Margaret Jenny', written in a cursive style.

Margaret Jenny
President

July 17, 2017

Attachments:

- Interim Report of the Drone Advisory Committee on *Funding the Integration of UAS into the National Airspace*