

FAA-designated Nevada UAS Test Site Selected for 2019 NASA Unmanned Traffic Management Capstone Operation

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

On 15 February 2019, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) publicly announced the State of Nevada as an award recipient for the Unmanned Aircraft Systems Traffic Management (UTM) Technical Capability Level (TCL) 4 operation. This involves Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) flying in higher-density urban areas for tasks such as newsgathering, package delivery, and large-scale contingency mitigation. For the first time in U.S. Aviation history in a metropolitan area under beyond visual line of sight conditions, Nevada will conduct this NASA demonstration over several months in downtown Reno, Nevada. The State of Nevada UAS Test Site, under the leadership of the NIAS, was selected to execute the NASA UTM TCL 4 operation through an intensely competitive process with six other states.

This NASA UTM milestone operation promises to develop a safe and reliable airspace platform to integrate drones into the National Airspace System (NAS). The innovative NASA concept under Nevada's Smart Silver State (S3) theme will lead UTM to an advanced level only imagined a few years ago. Involving 33 partners, this NASA S3 operation is not just the most innovative concept known for urban beyond visual line of sight and urban air mobility, it's also a vision to lead the global drone industry toward the next major advancement - to accomplish what the industry is ready to do today.

"Nevada has become a nationwide leader in emerging technologies, and this distinction propels our state to new heights," said Governor Steve Sisolak. "This incredible opportunity in an exciting field will allow Nevada to showcase all we have to offer as a hub for pioneering advancements in technology."

"In January, we were excited to learn that the NASA UTM Project had selected our great State of Nevada, which continues to be a focal point for the UAS industry," said Reno Mayor Hillary Schieve. "Last year the City of Reno was honored to be selected to participate in the FAA's UAS Integration Pilot Program, this year's selection for the FAA's UAS Traffic Management Pilot Program (UPP), and now we are getting that much closer to Unmanned Aerial Systems flying in our urban areas."

"We are very excited to partner with NASA on such an important program that will have a significant innovative impact on the global UAS Industry," said Dr. Chris Walach, Executive/Senior Director of the FAA-designated Nevada UAS Test Site, NIAS and the NIAS Unmanned Aviation Safety Center of Excellence. "We believe UTM is absolutely essential to making the airways safe and deconflicting manned and unmanned aviation. We look forward to testing the latest technology available globally to advance UTM research with NASA Ames, the City of Reno, the Reno-Tahoe Airport Authority, Switch, our diverse Nevada UAS Industry Team, key Nevada stakeholders, and drone businesses."

Developing Nevada Drone infrastructure is going to be a major factor in Nevada keeping pace with the exponential drone industry growth and being at the forefront of technology innovations.

“Switch is proud to be NIAS’ technology infrastructure provider throughout Nevada supporting successful drone integration into the national airspace right in the heart of downtown Reno,” said Betsy Fretwell, senior vice president of Switch CITIES.

The Nevada (Smart Silver State) NASA UTM partners include Fortune 50 companies and Nevada Teammates/Airspace developers including: Uber Elevate, Switch, AirMap, Avison Robotics, Harris Corporation, AiRXOS a GE company, ANRA Technologies, WhiteFox Defense, Iris Automation, Drone America, Echodyne, Fortem, UltiSat, Inc., AviSight, Inc, Utah State University AggieAir, Deseret UAS, Telesis Systems, Inc., College of Southern Nevada (CSN), Reno-Tahoe Airport Authority, the Cities of Reno and Henderson, Town of Laughlin, Apex Unmanned, Ainstein, escAerospace, Viasat, University of Nevada Reno (UNR), international partners Institute of Aviation, Warsaw (ILOT), RelmaTech, Aerium Analytics, Canadian UAV, AVSS-Aerial Vehicle Safety Solutions Inc, and ACAMP.

About the City of Reno: *The City of Reno government's mission is dedicated to creating a community that people are proud to call home. In order to achieve that purpose, the Reno City Council has established five key priorities: Thriving Downtown and University District, Vibrant Neighborhoods and Public Places, Well-Managed Growth, Strong Financial Condition, and Efficient and Dependable Business Environment. To learn more about the City of Reno, visit Reno.gov or call 775-334-INFO (4636).*

About the Nevada Institute for Autonomous Systems (NIAS): *The Nevada Institute for Autonomous Systems (NIAS) and FAA-designated Nevada Unmanned Aviation Test Site leads the growth of the Nevada Unmanned Aviation Systems (UAS) Industry through business teaming relationships, collaborating with primary research institutions on UAS research and development, and enhancing the Nevada UAS Industry knowledge base to attract new and permanent business and create jobs in the State of Nevada. Learn more at www.nias-uas.com.*

About Switch: *POWERING THE FUTURE OF THE CONNECTED WORLD® Switch (NYSE: SWCH), the technology infrastructure corporation headquartered in Las Vegas, Nevada is built on the intelligent and sustainable growth of the internet. Switch founder and CEO Rob Roy has developed more than 580 issued and pending patent claims covering data center designs that have manifested into the company’s world-renowned data centers and technology solutions. The Switch PRIMES, located in Las Vegas and Tahoe Reno, Nevada; Grand Rapids, Michigan; and Atlanta, Georgia (opening in Q4 2019) are the world’s most powerful hyperscale data center campus ecosystems with low latency to major U.S. markets. Visit switch.com for more information.*

About Telesis Systems, Inc.: *Telesis Systems, Inc. is a Maryland based Service Disabled Veteran Owned Small Business headquartered in Upper Marlboro, Prince George’s County, Maryland. The company provides Small Unmanned Aerial Systems (sUAS) Drone Training and Support Services. In addition to Drones services, the company provides Information Technology Communications and Network Engineering Services. Telesis Systems, Inc. has partnered with NIAS and will provide on-site communications and engineering services in support of this historical FAA (UPP) and NASA (TCL4) urban Unmanned Aerial Systems (Drone) test. To learn more about Telesis Systems, Inc., visit <https://telesisinc.com> .*

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