



JOHN R. KASICH

GOVERNOR • STATE OF OHIO

Communication Department

August 8, 2012

Rob Nichols, (330) 760-7582, Rob.Nichols@governor.ohio.gov

Jim Leftwich, (937) 239-0154, jim.leftwich001@gmail.com

OHIO LAUNCHES ONE-STOP-SHOP FOR UNMANNED AIRCRAFT EFFORTS ***Will Partner with Indiana in Pursuit of One of Six FAA Test Sites***

LAS VEGAS—Today at the Association for Unmanned Vehicle Systems International annual conference, the State of Ohio announced that it is creating the Ohio Unmanned Aircraft Systems Center and Test Complex to serve as a single-point resource for government, industry, and universities seeking to conduct research, train personnel, and develop the technologies and procedures to safely integrate unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) into the National Airspace System. The Center will facilitate the industry's efforts by leveraging Ohio's significant, existing UAS-ready resources, including a flight test range, airfields and a full complement of modeling, data analysis, research centers and engineering services.

Ohio also announced a partnership with Indiana to pursue designation by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) as one of six UAS test sites.

“The Ohio UAS Center will be a problem-solver and door-opener for anyone who needs airspace, access to ground facilities, research and analytic support and everything else it takes to move the UAS frontier forward safely, successfully and steadily. Ohio possesses the world's oldest continuously-operating aviation and aeronautics development infrastructure, which not only brings with it substantial technological know-how, but also a culture that thrives on innovation and knows how to support and cultivate it. With that experience comes an appreciation for the safety and security required to properly run this operation—something most other locations simply can't duplicate. All of this comes together to create enormous economic development and job creation potential for Ohio, which is very exciting,” said James A. Leftwich, the State of Ohio's special advisor for UAS initiatives.

An Aggressive Pursuit of the Future of Aviation: Explosive growth is predicted for the UAS industry in the next 10 years. According to a recent study by the Teal Group, annual worldwide spending on remotely piloted aerial systems will almost double over the next decade from \$6.6 billion to \$11.4 billion, totaling \$90 billion in the next 10 years. Ohio is well-positioned to compete for the industry given the strength of its aeronautics industry, with an emphasis on research and training, as well as its existing infrastructure of airspace and facilities.

A New Mission for Existing Airspace: The UAS Center's primary airspace will include a largely rural area east of Cincinnati and south of Columbus, including airspace previously restricted for Wright-Patterson's 4950th Test Wing, which was disbanded in 1994. This airspace is now managed as a "military operating area" by the Springfield Air National Guard Base. Since it is already used for military missions, residents and aircraft traffic in the area will see little or no change. The range will take advantage of the nearby Springfield-Beckley Municipal Airport and Wilmington Air Park to support its operations.

Natural Tie-In with Wright-Patterson: The UAS Center's proximity to Wright-Patterson will provide the base with new unmanned system test capabilities. Wright-Patterson is home to the Air Force Research Laboratory, which leads Air Force efforts to research and test technologies to safely integrate unmanned systems into the National Airspace System. Wright-Patterson also is responsible for designing and buying new aircraft for the Air Force.

Partnership with Indiana for Coveted FAA Site: Ohio Governor John R. Kasich and Indiana Governor Mitch Daniels have agreed to jointly seek designation by the FAA as one of six test range sites under a five-year program created by Congress to accelerate the safe integration of unmanned aircraft systems in the National Airspace System. The range proposed to the FAA will also include airspace used by Camp Atterbury, a training base of the Indiana National Guard near Edinburgh, Indiana, as well as other nearby infrastructure. The FAA is expected to make its selection in December.

The estimated \$1.5 million start-up costs will be paid by the State of Ohio, with the Center eventually becoming self-funded through user fees. Sites in the Miami Valley are currently being explored to house the Center's offices.

The Dayton Development Coalition, a nonprofit economic development organization that promotes job creation in the 14-county Dayton region was charged by the State with leading planning for the UAS Center.

###