Dr. Randal W. Beard

Site Director – Brigham Young University

Electrical Engineering

Professor Beard's research interests include autonomous systems, unmanned air vehicles, and multiple vehicle coordination and control.

He has worked in robotics and autonomous systems for over 15 years, with a particular focus on unmanned air systems for the past 10 years.

He has published over 130 peer-reviewed articles on unmanned systems and has received funding from AFOSR, AFRL, NASA, DARPA, and NSF.

He is one of the principle designers of the commercially available Kestrel autopilot system sold by Procerus Technologies.

Recent research projects include autonomous UAV/UGV coordination, aerial recovery of small UAVs using towed cable systems, vision-based obstacle avoidance for fixed-wing small UAS, and 3D path planning through urban terrain.

His students have won several competitions and awards for their work on micro air vehicles.