



Northeast Ohio Flight Information Exchange (NEOFIX)

Stakeholder Meeting

Wednesday, March 8, 2023 at 1 PM (EST)

Hosts: Stuart Mendel, PhD, Baldwin Wallace University Project Director
John Eberhardt, ATA, LLC
Scott Drew, ATA, LLC
Howard Thompson, EHM Advisors and Manufacturing Works
Chelsea Treboniak, Critical Ops

Stakeholders: Geoff Gates, Cleveland Clinic
Briand Halgas, City of Middleburg Heights
Rich Dawson, First Communications
Dan Meany, Cuyahoga County Planning
Mark Christie, Cuyahoga County Office of Emergency Management
Dan Chan, Commercial Drone Group, Inc.
Adam Harvey, Cleveland Airport System
Javier Badillo, City of Cleveland, Department of Port Control
Stephan Williams, Cleveland Police
Laura Schuch, Cleveland Metroparks
Hrishue Malahala, Executive Director of Aerozone Alliance and Innovation Economy Partners
Melissa Frank, First Energy Corp
Ken Patsey, Manufacturing Works
Paul Penko, Baldwin Wallace Department of Engineering
Swagata Banik, Baldwin Wallace Graduate Programs and Research Dean
Jen Pitz, BW Sponsored Research
Kyle Snyder, Michael Best Consulting
Mike Tornetta, OneSky
Tom McMahon, ATA, LLC
Jon Hegranes, Aloft
Aaron, Pierce Aerospace
Dan O'Shea, Iris Automation
Joe Darden, Iridium
Nick Liberko, Collins Aerospace

Stakeholders on Zoom without Organizational Reference: Nancy Chrisman, Linda Fowler, Joe Darden, George Kirov, Matt Beatty, Liam Moran, Matthew Ziska
Minutes

Geoff Gates (Cleveland Clinic): Geoff presented three UAV use case scenarios: delivery of prescription pharmaceuticals, lab testing on the main campus while drawing samples from remote locations, and food delivery to patients. The first use case is pending implementation through Zipline, the Clinic's provider, while the other two are evolving conceptually.

Differing sensitivities to flight risks were discussed. For example, conceptually, risk mitigation would have five levels ranging from zero to catastrophic to a UAV (drone), an unaware third party, or physical infrastructure.

Two modes of operations were presented: dynamic flight operations and point-to-point operations. Some of the sensor infrastructure exists in the form of weather sensors, but a point of inquiry will need to be made on their functionality for recognizing drones or drone detection in flight. Another sensor issue is placement and versatility for drone detection, knowing the FAA will use data provided by NEOFIX and the UAV service providers to approve operations.

Action Plan: NEOFIX will define critical infrastructure accounting for hazards and undesired risks. Mapping tall structures, such as communication towers, power, and other critical infrastructure that might be of concern to the 500,000 houses and 500 schools in the County is essential. Several participants offered to provide location data on towers, client infrastructure of note, specific drone operation locations for recreation purposes, baseline data to mitigate risk, and information on cell towers, radio communication towers, chemical facilities, and wind turbines.

Additional discussions surrounded the following:

- Tracking open-air special events and the necessity of vertical takeoff and landing designated areas or safe areas for emergency landing related to such events.
- Generalized policies within the FAA requirements for UAV detection, deconfliction, and general operations are another aspect of work for the NEOFIX.
- Real-time publication of data with advisory notifications depending upon the map sites and the purposes for the flights.

Next Meeting. The next meeting is Wednesday, April 12, 2023, at Baldwin Wallace University Knowlton Center, Second Floor, from 12:30 – 2:30 PM. Attendees were encouraged to register and invite one additional stakeholder to register via the following site: <https://bw-centers-tech-partnerships.org/events/>