



Northeast Ohio Flight Information Exchange (NEOFIX)

Design and Configuration Group Stakeholder Meeting

Tuesday, May 23, 2023

Group Lead: Scott Drew, ATA, LLC

Description: Identify added guidance and advisories that effectively “design” the preferred and prohibited take-off and landing areas, sensitive or critical areas to avoid, and high-value / high-risk areas where higher surveillance performance is needed to make operations safer, more efficient, and approvable given the ground space procedural mitigations.

Outcome(s): Develop a draft configuration plan including preferred and prohibited ground operations areas, sensitive flight areas, identified areas of air and ground risk and preferred navigational areas, and potential input on schedules and risk mitigations.

- Objective 1: Initial ground configuration plans around Cleveland Clinic Administrative Campus and Cleveland Lakefront
- Objective 2: Draft outline for risk mitigation strategy

Meeting Agenda:

- Identify contemplated Phase 1 operations
- Identification of preferred, prohibited, and sensitive ground areas in the proposed operating areas
- Identification of sensitive or higher risk air operating areas
- What are the next steps for developing a regional risk mitigation strategy?
- When is the next meeting date for the Design group?

Meeting Minutes:

Stakeholders exchanged the bulletized ideas during the discussion.

- Localized medical delivery for medication, diagnostics, EVLOS moving to BVLOS
- Conventional VLOS part 107 operations
- Drone as a first responder/local public safety VLOS/EVLOS
- A drone is used as a first responder and airborne sensor for local public safety missions, particularly for fire, law enforcement, FLIR, and crowd monitoring.
- Intention to develop a larger drone for water rescue with payloads such as towlines/ personal flotation devices, gas meters, etc.

- The new drone vehicle is under 55 lbs and is a multirotor copter from Aerosystems West.
- Plan for visual line of sight (LOS) operations with limited tactical beyond LOS for law enforcement.
- Priority is to prepare an inventory of drone assets and teams in the area to facilitate coordination and de-confliction.
- Beechwood/Shaker Heights hazards for drone flight or nefarious uses and sensitive areas for drone overflight due to the presence of schools, museums, synagogues, temples, cultural events, and public safety facilities.
- Drone Flipbook was created for water rescues, covering the entire coastline of Ohio and providing information on different boats and teams for specific rescue situations. The same could apply to drones.
- Director of network operations for a telecoms company.
- Uses drones to check rights-of-way (ROWs) and trees, similar to energy companies.
- Focus on layer 1 items under 55 lbs, capturing video of the environment and assessing the condition of the outside plane.
- Considers outsourcing to existing vendors.
- In the area of Beechwood and Shaker, most fiber and cable infrastructure is underground.
- Queries about rest areas, drone safe-to-ditch locations, public safety, and emergency landing sites.
- Discusses the increasing use of fireworks and the potential for sensors to detect them.
- Speculates on long-term opportunities related to drone usage in the aftermath of the Ukraine conflict.
- UTM (Unmanned Traffic Management) is an ecosystem service with various stakeholders.
- OneSky offers operational center products tailored to different needs.
- Sprite, a winged copter, is ready for beyond visual line of sight (BVLOS) operations for Group 1 and 2 drones.
- Emphasizes the importance of training for safe-to-ditch scenarios and recognizing suitable landing areas.
- Explains how UTM optimizes flight plans and handles drone-to-drone de-confliction.
- Discusses the incorporation of constraints and restrictions into the UTM system and the need for trusted and authoritative data.
- Highlights the challenge of drones interacting with aircraft without ADSB or Mode C transponders. Drones cannot use ADSB, and portable ADSB devices are not allowed by the FAA.

- Stresses the importance of collaboration between manned aviators and drones/UTM for problem-solving and data sharing. Sharing data from different platforms and tools can help establish a common operating picture.
- Coordination between public and private operators in a public safety emergency is a top priority.
- An inventory and roster for mutual aid have already been created and should be incorporated into the planning process, including the use of grids and planning tools.
- Expresses belief in the emergence of BVLOS entities and increased application of VLOS (visual line of sight) operations.
- Envisions potential applications for BVLOS commercial operations in mapping, surveying, and other areas.
- Notes the availability of consumer drones with 40-minute flight times, suggesting their suitability for certain operations.
- Acknowledges that initial BVLOS operations will likely involve Group 1 and Group 2 drones due to cost considerations.
- Mentions DJI equipment with ADSB capabilities with proximity warnings.
- This raises questions about how UTM will interact with aircraft like the piper cub without radios.
- Acknowledges that drones are not her area of expertise but offers to connect with the right people for future meetings.
- Mentions Sprite's collaboration with her team and Kyle S. at First Energy for BVLOS operations.
- Refers to her mapping system, which includes information on high-tension lines, substations, and transmission towers.
- Requests a polygon for the service area, and she will provide accurate rights-of-way and infrastructure data.
- Highlights the concept of safe-to-ditch as a crucial aspect of drone operations.
- Advocates for the creation of safe operating areas.
- Considers the intricacies of point-to-point delivery and the need for safe-to-ditch planning.

Next Meeting. The next group meeting is pending in June. The in-person group meeting is scheduled for June 21, 2023, at Baldwin Wallace University Knowlton Center, Second Floor, from noon – 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/event-june-21-2023-uncrewed-aerial-system-uas-operators-and-industry-stakeholder-engagement/>