

Drones Industry Action Group

12 December 2018 – BEIS Conference Centre 2.00pm – 4.30pm

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Attendees:

Chair: Iain Gray, Cranfield University
Phil Binks, Altitude Angel
Graham Browne, ARPAS
James Dunthorne, ARPAS
Yoge Patel, Blue Bear
Stuart McGlynn, Cyberhawk
Philip Tarry, Halo Drones
Nikos Pronios, Innovate UK
Simon Ritterband, Moonrock Insurance
Kathy Nothstine, Nesta
Craig Roberts, Stepchange Consultants
Nick Rogers, Sky Futures
Geoff Pugh, Consortiq

Mark Westwood, Transport Systems Catapult (TSC)
Alfred Jackson, TSC
Edward Anastassacos, TSC

Officials from BEIS and CAA

Guest:

David Kyseley, Aviary Project

Apologies:

Brian Hampson, ADS
Simon Merriman, BSI
Rikke Carmichael, Network Rail
DfT

1. The previous minutes were adopted as a true and accurate record. Iain noted apologies and actions were reviewed. **Outstanding action:** Relve to circulate Simon Weeks' ATI slides from previous meeting. [Note: these will be distributed alongside these minutes.]

2. Chair Overview:

At the Industrial Strategy One Year On event on 6th December, SoS announced the Future Flight Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund of £125m, which includes the original drones EOI bids (e.g. NESTA, Callen Lenz) and reinforced the value stream from platforms and infrastructure. The DIAG roadmap would help engagement with this challenge. UKRI is leading on this programme and will appoint a Challenge Director and there will follow competitive bidding, with potential funding available from April 2019.

Japan collaboration – drones has been identified as an area of mutual interest for tech/R&D collaboration with the Japanese Drone Consortium.

3. DIAG Terms of Reference

Proposed updated Terms of Reference were circulated before the meeting, with a focus on the group's objectives. A range of suggestions and comments were made, that the DIAG should:

- i. foster innovation and collaboration that will support the growth of commercial drone applications providers;
- ii. be the voice of the drone sector into government – a strategic influence and tactical group with messages working into Government rather than the other way round;
- iii. include technology and airspace management expertise and share this across the group;
- iv. (rather than coordinate UTM development, which is difficult) track and communicate Government funded projects and facilitate UTM coordination, collaboration and exploitation to help develop opportunities for adoption of drones.
- v. clarify and target key activities it is trying to influence, such as future aerospace strategy, Urban Air Mobility, and airspace modernisation.
- vi. Map, coordinate with and communicate to other relevant groups (e.g. ADS, ATI, ARPAS-UK, RAeS, APPG on Drones, APPG GA drone sub group, Aviary Project, Pathfinders);
- vii. facilitate adoption where safety of working at height can be improved by the use of drones;

viii. (rather than developing standards itself) monitor, review and input to industry standards;

Action: Further comments to be sent to BEIS asap and by 21 January latest. DIAG ToRs to be finalised by end of January and agreed for next meeting on the website. [Note, revised TORs will be disseminated alongside these minutes.]

4. **Operation Zenith:** Phil Binks and Mark Watson presented slides on Operation Zenith, the joint UTM demo that NATS and Altitude Angel delivered at Manchester Airport on 21 November 2018. Phil thanked CAA for their support in enabling the demo. [Youtube videos](#) record the activity. They confirmed that to date no non-NATS UK airports had made approaches but international airports had shown interest. Iain Gray welcomed this fantastic UK plc story.
5. **Transport Systems Catapult workshops:** TSC presented outcomes of the DIAG working groups which had agreed three themes of public perception, developmental airspace and operational safety cases (OSC). TSC offered to continue to run developmental airspace and OSC, but requested public perception be picked up by others. A discussion followed around outcomes/ products, with CAA noting that the new framework they have created with Regulator's Pioneer Fund support from BEIS would be able to accommodate the needs identified from the working groups.

Action: TSC will deliver two key products: a) recommendations as to how to do OSCs for the CAA 'tomorrow' and 'in ten years' time'; and b) a narrative around the development of the roadmaps and workshops to ensure a clear record in place. These will be made public alongside DIAG minutes once complete.

Action: TSC to work with BEIS/ Secretariat in taking forward and publishing progress.

6. **Aviary Project:** Damian Kyseley presented the activity and status of UAM: <http://aviaryproject.com/>
7. **Department for Transport update** (sent in absentia by James Bell):
- Policy and regulations: Government response to the drones consultation is expected imminently. [Note: Published 7 January 2019: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/government-response-to-future-of-drones-in-the-uk-consultation>]
 - European Regs: DfT is in active negotiations with EC / EASA regarding the new drone regulations.
 - Pathfinders: A TSC-hosted webpage is now live (<https://ts.catapult.org.uk/current-projects/pathfinder/>) and includes a copy of the 1st Pathfinders framework document. **Action: DIAG members are encouraged to review and comment.** Next steps are to develop Pathfinder 'challenges': the focus areas to enable routine BVLOS operations.
8. **CAA update:** CAA officials introduced the new CAA UAS unit and gave an overview of recent activity and focus. The slides presented were not cleared for public sharing at this stage but further updates will follow when available.
9. **AOB:** Kathy Nothstine said phase 2 of Flying High has begun: a Europe-wide city-based initiative.
10. **Future DIAG dates** for diaries
- **20 March 2019**
 - **12 June 2019**
 - **12 September 2019**
 - **12 December 2019**