



Tuesday, April 27, 2021

# Drones Pathfinder Catalyst Programme Update

Presentation to Drones Industry Action  
Group

Andrew Chadwick

27<sup>th</sup> April 2021

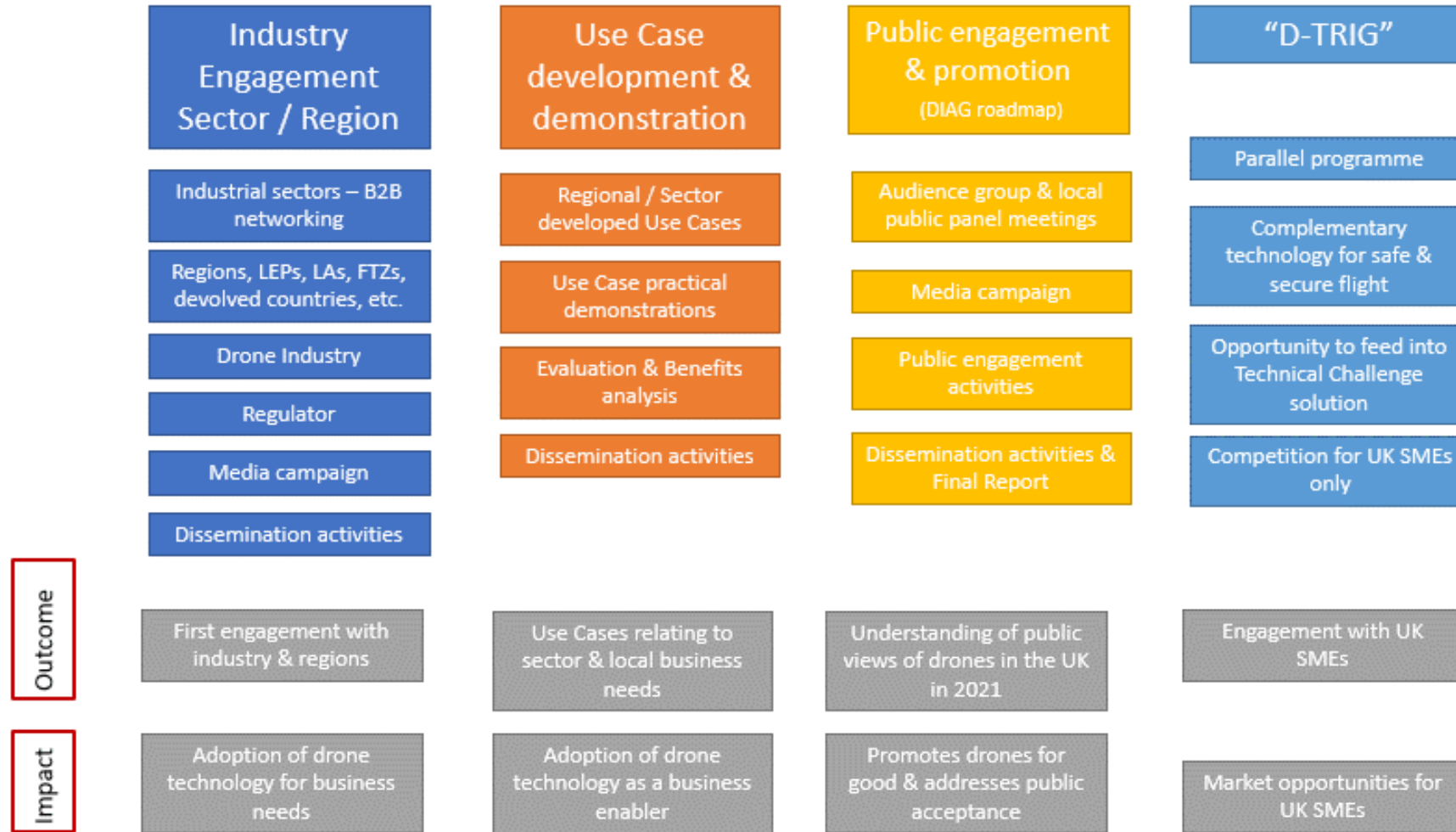
# Drones Pathfinder Catalyst Programme 2021/22

*Aviation innovation convened by Connected Places Catapult on behalf of UK Government*

- Driving impact at pace
  - Build the market: Focus on near-term BVLOS commercially viable use cases
  - Focused engagement with government, local authorities, business and investors
- Focused public engagement activities
  - Share evidence/learning through demonstration in real world environments
  - Tackle key remaining unmanned technical challenges



# Pathfinder Catalyst Programme – approach and outcomes



# Industry engagement and demonstrations

We issued an RFI to build a catalogue of capability for the demonstrations. We received over 65 responses across a broad range of services and solutions

We are focusing engagement this quarter on the housing and construction sectors with active engagement with trade bodies and individual organisations

We are working closely with ARPAS to shape the engagement and demonstrations

Within the housing sector we have identified 3 use cases for demonstration:

- Building condition survey – imperative based upon Building Safety Bill
- Thermal efficiency survey – imperative based upon net zero
- Estates management – open spaces and vegetation

We have a host housing association who we are working with to plan the demonstrations

We will use the RFI responses to identify provider(s) to deliver the demonstrations

Future planned engagement include:

- Energy infrastructure
- Rail
- Highways England
- Regional solutions

# Public engagement

We issued an RFI to the supply of research and engagement to understand public views of drones in the UK in 2021, to promote “drones for good” and address public acceptance/expectations paving the way for UAS deployment across multiple sectors in the UK.

We received 9 responses across a broad range of services and solutions.

Trinity McQueen were successful in their application to be our selected contractor.

The key aims of the new contract will be to:

- Engage with the public to have a clear understanding of current perceptions and opinions (positive and negative) of drones including drivers of attitudes and understanding patterns of variations across the population
- Understand how to increase public knowledge of drones to reduce misperceptions, and enhance public understanding of the benefits from drone use and safety processes, so that UAS services can be successfully deployed
- Develop recommendations for public-centred approaches to future engagement and communications (national and local) for drone usage related to specific use cases covering messaging and channel that will facilitate deployment of UAS services
- Inform the development of an effective feedback loop to the drone industry and relevant stakeholders to support and inspire development of commercialisation and expansion with public opinion and acceptance factored in

# D-TRIG

We launched a competition calling for SMEs to apply for a £30,000 innovation grant to develop new drone technology ideas centred around 3 specific challenges:

- Onboard Detect & Avoid
- Autonomy
- Communications

The D-TRIG programme will build upon the foundations of the Government Drones Pathfinder programme through ambitious plans to give UK plc a competitive advantage.

We have received over 60 responses

These are currently being assessed.

# Thank You

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