



Unmanned Aircraft Technology Applications Research
A V-TOL Aerospace Pty Limited Initiative

Mr Peter Hill
WG27 Secretary
17 Dec 2007

SUBJECT

3rd Working Group-27 Meeting
12th December 2007

BACKGROUND

Meeting was conducted at Aviation Australia Cabin Crew training centre 15 Boronia Rd, Brisbane Airport. Meeting was organised by Peter Hill and chaired by Brigadier W.J.A Mellor, DSC, AM (Rtd).

Meeting Agenda

- Introduction
- Apologies
- New Members
- New Business
- New member presentation (Aerocam Australia)
- New member presentation (Skyview Solutions)
- Agenda Item 1 (WG Mission & Goals & Strategy)
- Agenda Item 2 (Aviation Skills Formation Strategy)
- Agenda Item 3 (Small UAS Workshop 2008)
- Summary
- Meeting Closed

Introduction

The Chairman opened the meeting and reviewed the agenda and read the apologies and introduced new members to the rest of the group.

Apologies

- Rob Sparks – Queensland Government
- Rod Walker - QUT
- Richard Clifford - Aerosonde
- Heidi Fourie - BAE

New Members

- Greg Smith – Aerocam Australia Pty Ltd
- Dr Leasie Felderhof – Skyview Solutions Pty Ltd
- Michael Nas – UAV Legal expert
- Andree Robson – QBE Insurance
- Joseph I-Urli – Unmanned Systems Pty Ltd

The Chairman then handed over to Peter Hill who read out the new business.

New Business

- QBE sponsorship of WG-27
 1. QBE Aviation insurance has agreed to provide a small amount of funds to assist in the administration costs of WG27 activities. The announcement was well received by all at the meeting. WG-27 is a project administered under V-TOL Aerospace Pty Limited UATAR Program. At present WG27 relies on the assistance provided by V-TOL Aerospace and the in-kind support of the WG members. The sponsorship by QBE is a direct result brought about from the good working relationship established between V-TOL and QBE. Both organisations intend to work together in the area of UAV insurance.
- ASTM Technical Committee F38 on Unmanned Air Vehicle Systems
 1. It was put to the working group that WG27 considers becoming a member organisation of Technical Committee F38. Mr Dan Schultz from ATSM in the USA who is the Technical Committee Director has advised WG27 a number of options for membership exist and that our involvement from Australia would be of much interest. The response from WG members suggested that before the WG commits to joining such an organisation further research is required to investigate the pro's and con's of doing so. As it would seem there are a number of International organisations looking at UAV certification and standards.

New Member Presentation

- Mr Greg Smith - Aerocam Australia
Was welcomed into the group with Greg Smith the Director providing a brief overview of his UAV system and company. Aerocam Australia will be a Brisbane based UAV operator of the Shadow 600 system.
- Leasie Felderhof - Skyview Solutions
Was welcomed into the group with Leasie Felderhof a Director of the company providing a brief overview of the work they are doing in Far North Queensland with a Cropcam UAV.

Agenda Item 1 – WG27 Mission/Goals & Strategy

The Chairman supervised an open discussion among the group focusing on key words that best represented what the group hoped to achieve. These words would then build the foundation for a vision and mission statement for the group. Key words put forward were:

Small / UAS / commercial / safety / UAV Research / applications / standards / code of practice / peak body / promotion / industry voice / leverage / networking / facilitate /

From the above key words the group decided on the following as the agreed mission statement and vision statement for WG-27.

Working Group 27 Mission Statement:

“To provide independent support for the development, and adoption of Australian small commercial UAV standards, regulations and best practices.”

Working Group 27 Vision Statement:

“To be the leading industry body for the promotion of Australian small UAS development and safe commercial operations.”

Agenda Item 1 was then closed and Agenda Item 2 opened.

Agenda Item 2 – Aviation Skills Formation Strategy

Mr Phil Presgrave from the Department of State Development presented to the group a presentation on a joint initiative from the Department of Education, Training and the Arts and the Department of State Development titled ‘Skills Formation Strategy.’

It aims to establish a process of collaboration with industry to address skill shortages and career paths across a number of key industry sectors. Aviation and Aerospace has been identified as a priority area. It was put forward to the group that WG-27 may wish to consider participating in the strategy as a number of similarities exists between both organisations in the development of a suggested training and skilling solution for the UAS industry.

- The group thanked Phil for the presentation and it was suggested that this topic be further explored. Peter Hill was asked to liaise with Phil on this matter.

Agenda Item 2 was closed and Agenda Item 3 opened.

Agenda Item 3 – Small UAS Workshop

Mr Peter Hill representing V-TOL Aerospace put to the group the concept of WG-27 conducting a Small UAS Workshop in 2008. The workshop would address a number of key issues for the benefit of all Australian small UAS commercial operators.

It was suggested the workshop include ‘think tank’ sessions together with practical UAS flight demonstrations to prove ‘proof of concept’ procedures developed by the workshop. The end goal of the workshop would be to commence developing a standard benchmark set of procedures for commercial small UAS operations in Australia to be approved by CASA and the insurance industry.

The concept was well received by all members at the meeting. The Chairman suggested that there was an opportunity to organise such an event to coincide with another planned aviation activity. It was put forward that this may leverage off programmed national PR and create greater awareness for the benefit of the UAS workshop.

The Chairman and Peter Hill will look into this further on behalf of the group.

Summary and Close

The meeting consisted of people from Queensland Government, University, Aviation Insurance and UAS Industry members. The meeting was again well received and for the first time had a large contingent of UAS commercial operators. The Aerocam Australia and Skyview Solutions presentations were very well received by the attendees. As a result future meetings will allow other organisations to provide a 5 minute presentation on their operations and UAS products. The Chairman closed the meeting and thanked everyone for the attendance.