

Working Group-27 Status Summary 01/07

On 06 December 2006 UATAR™ Working Group 27 (WG-27) was officially launched and held its first meeting in Brisbane with support from the Queensland Department of State Development Aviation and Defence Industry Team. The focus of the WG-27 is to address issues relating to UAS Insurance, Compliance, and Controller Training Standards for the Australian and New-Zealand UAS Industry.

The WG was launched and presided over by UATAR™ Chairman Brigadier Bill Mellor (Rtd) and New-Zealand based UVS-NZA President Trevor Rogers (Board member of UVSI and President TGR Helicorp Ltd). Presentations were provided by Trevor Rogers on behalf of and representing, John Walker from Washington based RTCA (SC 203 Committee) and Peter Van Blyenburgh, President, Unmanned Vehicle Systems International (UVSI), Paris.

“The strength of UATAR™ WG-27 is that it consists of the right mix of people and experience including Global, Regional and Australian UAS manufacturers and operators, UAS Researchers, Military Aviation, an international Insurance underwriter, and UVSI, a highly regarded International UAS Body”, said Brigadier Mellor (Rtd).

Inaugural participating members included:

- Australian Research Centre for Aerospace Automation
- Boeing Australia
- 16 Aviation Brigade
- Queensland Department of State Development Aviation and Defence Team
- New Zealand & Australian Unmanned Vehicle Systems Association
- QBE Aviation
- TGR Helicorp Ltd; and,
- V-TOL Aerospace Pty Limited

Topics discussed at the meeting included, appropriate for Australia and NZ:

- Developing a ‘Best Practice’ set of guidelines and standards for Small UAVs.
- With industry consultation development of a national standard for UAV controller training across all UAV types.
- As a matter of priority organise demonstrator programs involving the operation and integration of unmanned aircraft into the national airspace grid; and to,
- Develop with key stakeholders UAS certification and airworthiness standards in relation to insurance risk, accepted standards and safe operating procedures.

UATAR™ WG-27 members will be contacted shortly to outline 2007 activities.

For further information contact: info@v-tol.com or peterhill@v-tol.com