



NEW YORK AVIATION MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION URGES STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TO WORK CAUTIOUSLY AND COOPERATIVELY WITH THE FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION ON DRONE REGULATION

Albany, NY, September 15, 2016 – Emphasizing the importance of emerging drone technology to New York’s aviation industry and the state’s overall economic health, the Board of Directors of the New York Aviation Management Association (NYAMA) today urged governments to exercise caution and work cooperatively with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) on the regulation of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs), often referred to as drones.

“UAVs are here to stay, and NYAMA is committed to ensuring this technology and its practically limitless applications across many disciplines are safely integrated into the airspace system,” outgoing NYAMA President Jeremy P. Martelle and incoming NYAMA President John DelBalso said in a joint statement as NYAMA launched its 40th Annual Fall Conference in Long Island.

NYAMA’s newest policy statement emphasized the FAA’s sole jurisdiction over the airspace in which UAVs operate, and noted that governments cannot work unilaterally when seeking to advance laws, rules and regulations.

“While everyone agrees that UAVs need to operate within a strict set of regulations, we also recognize that the FAA must be the final arbiter of those regulations,” Martelle and DelBalso said. “City councils, county boards, and state divisions all should have a voice, but must also remember that the FAA sets the final rules. And we are here to help whenever possible, because we are uniquely positioned to act as a liaison between state and local governments and the FAA.”

NYAMA, whose membership is composed in large part of airport owners and operators, has worked to educate the public on UAV operations, including guidance on FAA rules related to UAV operations in proximity to airports. NYAMA’s aviation professionals see UAV technology as the next frontier in aviation, radio communication, computer science, avionics, automation, electromagnetics, cybernetics, and even core fields of artificial intelligence such as computer vision, decision-making, machine learning and robotics.

NYAMA works closely with the Northeast UAS Airspace Integration Research (NUAIR) Alliance. NUAIR is a New York not-for-profit coalition of more than 90 private and public entities and academic institutions working together to manage unmanned aircraft system (UAS) test ranges

and to promote unmanned transportation systems. The NUAIR Alliance is teamed with Griffiss International Airport, an FAA Designated UAS Test Site, in Rome, New York.

By partnering with NUAIR, NYAMA helps educate the public and local and state elected officials on all aspects of UAS research, development and operations and on the potential high-quality job growth in the field. NYAMA participates in and sponsors events in communities throughout the state and has presented at such forums as the NYS Association of Counties conferences to talk about UASs to public officials at all levels of government.

NYAMA is a valuable resource for information about UAVs/UASs and members are available to help organize educational meetings.

For more information, contact NYAMA at 518-687-2241 or info@nyama.aero.

A copy of the policy paper, [“NYAMA Policy Statement on Securing the Future for UAV/UAS Technologies,”](#) can be found by clicking here.

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