

AFRICA – Drones on the horizon: transforming Africa’s agriculture

The African Union, High Level Panel on Emerging Technologies (APET) and New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD) have published a report entitled, *Drones on the horizon: Transforming Africa’s Agriculture*. The report explains how unmanned aircraft (UA) are a vital part of precision agriculture and how drones can be used to provide detailed and on-demand data that support decision-making by farmers in Africa.

Source:

<https://www.nepad.org/programme/emerging-technologies>

ASIA PACIFIC – Drone-based vaccine deliveries in Vanuatu

The Ministry of Health of Vanuatu, in assessment with the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), is exploring the use of UA, as a quick, reliable, and effective mode of transportation to deliver vaccines from main health facilities to dispensaries, aid post, and mobile vaccination teams.

Source:

<http://unicefstories.org/drones/vanuatu/>

EUROPE – EASA mandate grows to cover full aviation landscape including drones

Updated aviation safety rules for Europe formalize the European Aviation Safety Agency’s (EASA) role in the domain of UA and urban air mobility, enabling the Agency to prepare rules for all sizes of civil UA and harmonize standards for the commercial market across Europe.

Source:

<https://www.easa.europa.eu/newsroom-and-events/news/easa-takes-new-responsibilities>

NORTH AMERICA – NASA Flies Remotely Piloted Aircraft without chase plane for first time

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration’s (NASA) remotely-piloted Ikhana aircraft, based at the agency’s Armstrong Flight Research Center in Edwards, California, successfully flew its first mission in June in the National Airspace System without a safety chase aircraft.

Source:

<https://www.nasa.gov/press-release/nasa-flies-large-unmanned-aircraft-in-public-air-space-without-chase-plane-for-first>

WORLD – Intelligent UA push the boundaries of oil and gas inspection

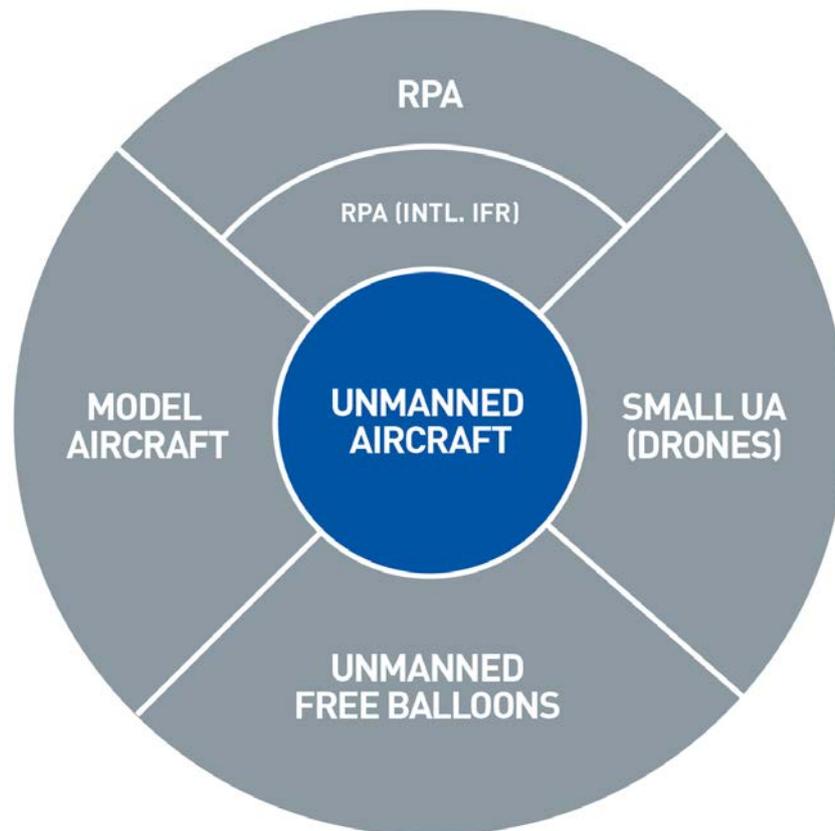
Companies incurring significant time and money on manual inspection tasks. To address this, UA are increasingly utilized in the oil and gas industries for inspecting pipelines, storage tanks and offshore platforms.

Source:

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/markvenables/2018/07/24/intelligent-drones-push-the-boundaries-of-oil-and-gas-inspection/#bbac19f66dfe>

IMPORTANT NOTE: The information presented in this Bulletin was collected from public sources and is aimed at supporting regulators in developing and implementing a harmonized regulatory framework for unmanned aviation. This Bulletin also aims at facilitating the exchange of information amongst States regarding their unmanned aviation regulations, as recommended by ICAO’s 39th Assembly (27 Sept.-7 Oct. 2016). The information herein, whether of an operational, economic or regulatory nature, is neither validated nor endorsed by ICAO. In order to support consistent terminology, and since many States do not yet have regulations in place, please refer to the *Key Terms for Unmanned Aviation* at the end of this Bulletin.

KEY TERMS FOR UNMANNED AVIATION



UNMANNED AIRCRAFT (UA)

Unmanned aircraft (UA) operate as part of an **unmanned aircraft system (UAS)** which also includes a **remote pilot station (RPS)**, a **C2 Link** for control and management, and other necessary **components**.

UA includes a broad spectrum of aircraft, from **drones**, **unmanned free balloons**, and **model aircraft**, to highly complex **remotely piloted aircraft (RPA)** operated by licensed aviation professionals.

REMOTELY PILOTED AIRCRAFT (RPA)

RPA are a subset of UA. A further subset of RPA is expected to be accommodated and ultimately integrated into the airspace for **international, instrument flight rules (IFR)** operations, which will require full regulatory certification.

SMALL UA/DRONES

Generally weighing less than 25 kg, this subset of smaller UA is commonly referred to as **drones**.

UNMANNED FREE BALLOON

This term describes **non-power driven, unmanned, lighter-than-air aircraft** in free flight.

MODEL AIRCRAFT

This term describes small size unmanned aircraft, generally representing a **scaled down version** of full size aircraft and used for **recreational** purposes in the sport and pastime of aeromodelling.