



TWELFTH AIR NAVIGATION CONFERENCE

Montréal, 19 to 30 November 2012

Agenda Item 4: Optimum capacity and efficiency – through global collaborative ATM 4.2: Dynamic management of special use airspace

REMOTELY PILOTED VEHICLES (RPV) ACTIVITIES IN THE UAE

(Presented by the United Arab Emirates)

SUMMARY

Remotely piloted vehicles (RPV) activities in the UAE FIR are fast increasing. RPV's are present in and immediately around the UAE FIR on a daily basis. According to ICAO's ASBUs, the need for full RPV integration will only be realized in 2023 – 2028. In order to ensure safe operations to our clients and stakeholders, the UAE has restricted RPV activities to uncontrolled airspace.

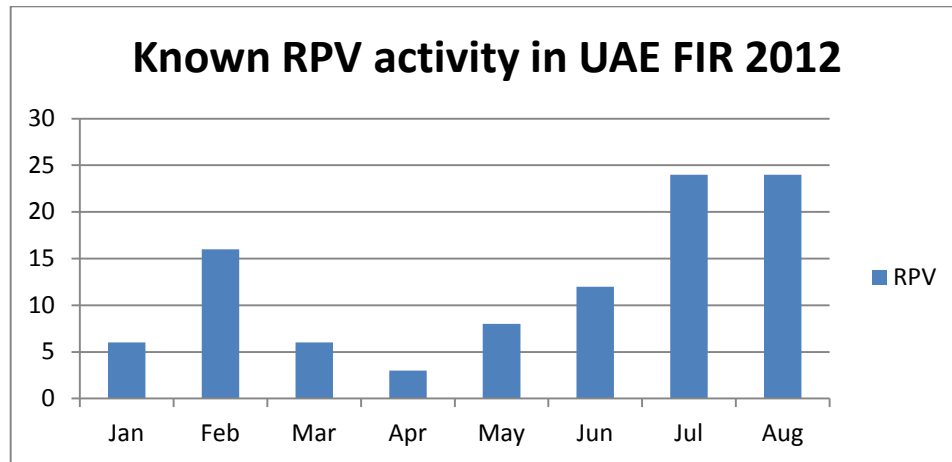
1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Sheikh Zayed Air Navigation Centre (SZC) under the auspices of the General Civil Aviation Authority (GCAA) of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) is currently experiencing a surge of remotely piloted vehicles (RPV) within our flight information region (FIR). In 2006 the SZC took measures and published procedures to ensure that adequate separation exists within our FIR between RPVs and other airspace users.

1.2 The safety of other airspace, users until the recent surge in RPV activities, has therefore mostly been ensured. During the first eight months of 2012 the Emirates ACC has experienced six losses, with two losses of separation in August alone.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 Although we have seen a marked increase in RPV frequency, RPV activity is erratic, unannounced and has no regard for ATS routes/holding fixes/airports etc.



Note.— Each RPV is known to operate for 6 to 10 hours.

2.2 RPV activities in the UAE significantly impact air traffic operations. They operate in congested routes and busy portions of the airspace for long periods of time. They do not only increase the safety risk of the ATM operations measured by the 6 losses of separation but it seriously affects the air traffic handling and overall increases the delay with associated fuel burning and CO₂ emissions.

2.3 Due to the continuous challenges that the UAE faces with regard to RPV activities, and due to the absence of clear separation criteria, the UAE has chosen to restrict RPV activities to uncontrolled airspace.

2.4 It is anticipated that the development of international standards for RPV may only be considered in line with ASBU, however due to the ever increasing operations of the RPV not only in the UAE but also worldwide, the UAE wishes to request the expedition of developing international standards for the RPV's full integration in controlled airspace.

3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

3.1 The Conference is invited to note the information contained in this paper and the difficulties experienced in the United Arab Emirates flight information region.

— END —