



**Capabilities Overview**  
**UMD UAS Research and Operations Center**



UNIVERSITY OF  
MARYLAND

# Agenda

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- Who we are
- What we do
- Where we are
- Equipment
- Past projects
- Ongoing and future projects
- How we can help



# Who we are

- Aerospace Engineering Department
- Formed for UAS Test Site competition in 2014
- St. Mary's County Airport
- Seven staff –
  - Engineers, Pilots, Project Managers, Admin Coordinator (and a Director)



*An Asset of the University!*

# What We Do

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- **Research and Education**
  - “Get research flying” with expert UAS operational and engineering support to UMD faculty and students
  - Engage with local STEM and other outreach efforts
- **Operational Flight Support**
  - Collaborative research projects involving combinations of Academia/Government/Industry
- **Long Term Initiatives**
  - Chesapeake UAS Route Network (CURN) - Integrating Crewed/Uncrewed aircraft into the National Airspace System without reliance on segregated airspace



# Research & Education

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- UROC brings equipment, expertise, and experience to smooth employment of UAS
  - Support UMD researchers and students using UAS for their projects – *it's about the payloads, not the drones*
  - Help select equipment, modify hardware and flight software, physically/electrically integrate payloads, etc.
  - Ensure safety, legality, and compliance with FAA rules

***Early Engagement = Smooth Execution***

# Undergrads

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- **Student Teams**
  - Vertical Flight Society (VFS), Autonomous Micro Air Vehicle (AMAV), Design-Build-Fly (DBF)
- **Internships**
  - 10-weeks in Southern MD, can extend into academic year
  - Interns propose projects and bring faculty mentors
  - UROC funds pay and project budgets, provides facilities and technical expertise, and rolls in Project Management training

# Operational Flight Support

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- Support Public/Private entities
  - Use UAS for innovative purposes
  - New airframes
  - Payload integrations onto existing UAS
- Airworthiness
  - In-house engineering review of new and modified UAVs – Safety of Flight



## Chesapeake UAS Route Network

- Eventual route network structure connecting UAS points of interest
  - Beyond Visual Line Of Sight
  - On demand, not requiring special FAA permissions
  - Non-segregated operations
  - Not just small UAS
  - Flight Over People
  - UAS Traffic Management (UTM)



# Equipment



# Who we've worked with



# Recent Projects



# Ongoing and future projects...

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- Artificial Intelligence and Autonomy in Multi-Agent Systems (ArtIAMAS)
- DARPA Triage Challenge - Roboscout
- Wildfire XPRIZE Competition
- UMD Wildfire Grand Challenge
- Precision Agriculture

# Precision Agriculture

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- Advise and assist with drone applications in research at UMD's AGNR Department
- Support UMD Extension's Precision Agriculture Specialist
  - Long-term goal to automate workflows in precision ag for greater speed, timeliness, and precision in application
  - UROC will house drones and use existing facilities, experts, & local farm for research



# So... What can we do together?

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- When you need to get up in the air with a drone, think of us
  - Have questions on FAA rules and regulations?
  - Want to save money by using university-owned assets?
  - Trying to sort through drone-makers' claims online?

***Come Visit!***



# UAS RESEARCH AND OPERATIONS CENTER

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**FEARLESS FLIGHT**