

Virginia Unmanned Systems Commission Work Groups and Missions

The scope of all work groups includes unmanned systems in the aerial, ground, and maritime domains.

1. Marketing

Mission and Scope: This work group will develop recommendations and content for marketing the assets and capabilities of Virginia to the unmanned systems industry including supporting supply chain elements. This working group will provide specific initiatives or utilization of private /public resources for marketing, incentives, partnerships, and business development. Tasks may include:

- Develop a marketing package by November, 2015
- Develop marketing plan
- Develop manufacturing plan
- Define industry vectors and situation in other states and international
- Consider potential foundational projects to guide marketing strategy development¹

Members:

1. Guy Sanitate (Chair)
2. Tom Dingus
3. Bob Dehnert
4. Scott Strimple

2. Policy/Regulation/Culture.

Mission and Scope: This work group will identify the attributes of responsible policy and regulation that both promotes the industry growth and addresses the safety and legitimate concerns of the public, including factors contributing to adverse perceptions of UMS. The workgroup will provide specific policy and regulatory recommendations as well as recommend actions to provide awareness and education to diverse set of constituents; system operators, non-users exposed to the systems, and legislators & regulatory/standards bodies. Tasks may include:

- Identify policy and regulatory issues and proposed mitigation
- Define recommendations for the FAA
- Identify programs to educate and improve public and legislators' perceptions (e.g.; value of the technology, privacy issues)

Members:

1. Victoria Cox (Chair)
2. David Hamrick
3. Young Kim
4. Scott Strimple
5. Steve Weidner

¹ Potential applications were mentioned at the 9/18/15 UMS Commission meeting: Public Safety, Agriculture (night ops, coordinated air and ground robotics systems), driverless cars, training programs, servicing offshore wind energy, Centers of Excellence around systems, Hampton Roads as a test bed with DoD/NATO, road vehicles and robotics with Fort Eustis., Service oriented information exchange, Center for Infrastructure Protection at GMU. Not mentioned at the meeting but with activity underway: GIS survey, infrastructure inspection, humanitarian supply delivery.

3. Innovation & Business Environment

Mission and Scope: This work group will identify and recommend the actions and incentives required to develop the necessary innovation environment to spur the growth of UMS and the associated industries within the Commonwealth. An integrated marketing and/or business development function will provide much needed focus to attract businesses to Virginia as well as aid growth of resident firms. Innovation environments that provide a means of connecting innovators, entrepreneurs, venture capital, academia, and federal labs hold great promise including that in solving problems that span air/land/sea communities of interest. Testing capabilities that are low cost, easy to access, and that facilitate rapid experimental cycles are also an element of an innovation environment. Tasks may include:

- Define incentives needed for both small/entrepreneurial and large companies
- Recommend the innovation environment required, potentially spanning research, engineering, and testing and connecting innovators, entrepreneurs, venture capital, academia, and federal labs.
- Examine all elements of the UMS supply chain (e.g.; manufacturing, software, cyber, data services, component technologies, testing, education) to estimate relative value for Virginia and relative importance of targeting marketing and investments/incentives.
- Define the Virginia focal point for UMS marketing, economic/business development, integration of resources. Subset: Define role of CIT and VEDP in this, as they are or with proposed changes. Define role of MAAP in UMS marketing and BD vis-à-vis other assets.
- Examine role of test ranges in the current industry environment (for air/land/sea), and potential alternate models or structures for the MAAP.
- Examine potential in increased collaboration with DoD and NATO ACT.
- Define the hub of UMS industry in Virginia (region)

Members:

1. Bob Dehnert (Chair)
2. Tom Dingus (Co-Chair)
3. Jim Hughes
4. Guy Sanitate
5. Young Kim

4. Education & Workforce.

Mission and Scope: This work group will identify those educational institutions/programs and skills relevant to the growth of the UMS industry across all aspects of the industry, gaps and opportunities to provide needed skills, and initiatives to enhance Virginia's posture in growing the future workforce. Virginia has world class educational opportunities ranging from credentialing programs to professional degrees. This not only is a value to economic development (attracting firms) but also an economic activity in its own right. Tasks may include:

- Survey assets and programs for an integrated picture to aid marketing and gap analysis
- Define skill sets needed and gaps in programs or in quantity
- Define how to enhance collaboration across educational institutions
- Define what future UMS training looks like. Consider all aspects of the industry
- Leverage diversity and the millennials.

Members:

1. Tom Dingus (Chair)
2. Jim Hughes
3. Victoria Cox
4. Scott Strimple