

Mid-Atlantic aviation partnership explores tethered drone opportunities with florida company

August 31 2015, by John David Pastor



The Mid-Atlantic Aviation Partnership at Virginia Tech conducted flights with Drone Aviation Holding Corp. in Florida this month to research the company's tethered unmanned aircraft systems. The systems are designed to provide secure aerial monitoring for extended durations while connected to the ground via a high-strength armored tether. Credit: Drone Aviation Holding Corp.

The Mid-Atlantic Aviation Partnership at Virginia Tech will collaborate with [Drone Aviation Holding Corp.](#), a Jacksonville-based aviation company, to research, test, and advance the commercialization of the

company's tethered unmanned aircraft systems, also known as drones.

The organizations began test flights this month in Jacksonville, Florida, to explore the reliability, safety, and commercial-use cases for the company's family of tethered drones, and ultimately report the results to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).

"We are excited to demonstrate the advantages and many potential civil and commercial uses of our tethered drones," said Jay Nussbaum, chairman of Drone Aviation Holding Corp. "This ongoing partnership will focus on evaluating the increased safety features and technical advantages of our tethered drones and sharing that data with the FAA for the potential commercial deployment of 'WATT' systems into the national airspace for first responders and commercial entities."

The FAA selected the Mid-Atlantic Aviation Partnership at Virginia Tech in December, 2013, as one of six national test sites to conduct research to integrate [unmanned aircraft](#) into the nation's airspace. Since then, the partnership has worked with [unmanned aircraft systems](#) to aid emergency responders, survey energy pipeline infrastructure, study agricultural land, and teach reporters to cover news.

"At Virginia Tech, we see tremendous opportunity for tethered-drone technology because of its unique capabilities and safety profile, making it applicable to a large number of applications from news broadcasting to emergency response and facility security," said Rose Mooney, executive director of the Mid-Atlantic Aviation Partnership, headquartered at the Institute for Critical Technology and Applied Science at Virginia Tech. "We look forward to working with Drone Aviation Holding Corp., the FAA, and our consortium partners to explore the commercial application of this this novel UAS technology."

The WATT-200 is designed to safely provide secure and reliable aerial

monitoring for extended durations while being tethered to the ground via a high strength armored tether. Unlike hobbyist [drones](#) or manned aircraft, the WATT model delivers the long -flight duration and commercial grade, real-time video-monitoring capabilities day or night, the company said.

Provided by Virginia Tech

Citation: Mid-Atlantic aviation partnership explores tethered drone opportunities with florida company (2015, August 31) retrieved 20 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2015-08-mid-atlantic-aviation-partnership-explores-tethered.html>

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