

US: More registered drone operators than licensed pilots

8 February 2016, byJoan Lowy

The Federal Aviation Administration says there are now more registered drone operators in the U.S. than there are licensed pilots.

FAA Administrator Michael Huerta told a legal forum on Monday that the agency passed the [milestone](#) last week when it topped 325,000 registered drone owners. There are 320,000 licensed pilots of manned aircraft.

Huerta said the number of small unmanned aircraft is even larger because [drone operators](#) often own more than one drone.

FAA officials launched a drone registration program just before the end of 2015, saying it would help them track down operators who violate regulations and also help to create a culture of accountability.

Huerta said the speed with which registration has taken off is proof that government and industry can work together.

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