

Contribution to FAI UAV/Drone Debate - Gen Conf 2007

Definitions of UAV/Drones and Model Aircraft

Attempt at Differentiation for Possible Future Rule-making and Regulations

Drones:

- UAVs and drones as a category meet the following overall criteria:
- UAVs and drones are vehicles that are designed quite specifically to fulfil certain defined purposes (missions) and which are fitted with appropriate sensors and emitters enabling them to carry out these tasks.
- UAVs and drones are designed to be able operate beyond the direct field of vision of the pilot or Mission-Commander. They usually possess a control function that can be programmed for an autonomous flight or mission profile. They are capable of accomplishing the entire flight or parts of the mission autonomously.
- UAVs and drones are primarily employed for national/government tasks and /or commercially for quasi-national/governmental work.
- With UAVs and drones, the Pilot or Mission-Commander's role is to some extent that of providing an additional measure of safety, rather than being the primary controlling agent of the aircraft.

Model Aircraft:

- Model aircraft are in general built and flown for the purposes of leisure and sporting contests.
- Model aircraft use the third dimension world-wide as a branch of the air sport community, taking part in many different forms of sporting contest .
- In these activities, the builder and pilot of the aircraft is motivated principally by his desire to have fun, to compete in sporting contests, and to achieve personal fulfilment.
- The model aircraft of today may possess more and more complex electronic and other kinds of equipment, intended to make it easier to control the aircraft and/or enhance entertainment value; but even highly complex electronic equipment does not per se transform a model aircraft into a UAV or drone
- Model aircraft normally fly within the primary field of vision of the pilot, and thus remain close to his physical location.
- Model aircraft are not pre-programmed to fly specific mission profiles, nor are they equipped with sensors and emitters enabling them to be used for government, commercial or competition-related purposes.
- The electronic equipment on model aircraft serves principally to steer the model, to provide information and/or entertainment to the pilot, and to ensure the safe operation of the model.
- A remotely-controlled aircraft that is designed for private use and is operated privately should be categorised as a model aircraft, even if (notwithstanding its original purpose) it is also capable of being used commercially and / or for other purposes that do not fall within those associated with model aircraft. Possible abusive applications of model aircraft do not turn them into UAVs or drones, but this does not exclude the possibility that, according to law, certain uses may be banned.