

\$\$ APPROPRIATIONS \$\$



LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
M. STRINDEN



AUTHORITY BOARD



NORTH Dakota

Be Legendary.

Commerce

COMMISSIONER
C. SCHILKEN




UNIVERSITY OF
NORTH DAKOTA




GRAND FORKS COUNTY
HEART OF THE RED RIVER VALLEY

→ APPROPRIATIONS

 In Commerce Budget







GRANDSKY

GRAND FORKS COUNTY, ND

PRESIDENT
T. SWOYER

Program	Request	Executive Proposal
GrandSKY	\$22,500,000	\$5,000,000







NORTHERN PLAINS
UAS TEST SITE

EX. DIRECTOR
T. WOODS

Program	Request	Executive Proposal
NPUASTS - Base	\$3,000,000	\$3,000,000
NPUASTS - Additional	\$4,000,000	\$1,000,000
Drone Replacement Program		\$15,000,000
NPUASTS - Total	\$7,000,000	\$19,000,000






VANTIS

NORTH DAKOTA'S UAS SYSTEM

DEPUTY DIRECTOR
E. ROESLER

Program	Request	Executive Proposal
Vantis - Core	\$30,000,000	\$20,000,000
Vantis - Radar Pathfinder		\$11,000,000
VANTIS - TOTAL	\$30,000,000	\$31,000,000



R&D / FAA PROGRAMS

AUTONOMY ECOSYSTEM PLAYERS



NORTH DAKOTA
UNMANNED AUTONOMOUS
SYSTEMS COUNCIL



trainND
NORTHWEST



GRAND FARM



NDSU

→ THALES
→ MITRE



NPUASTS is one of seven FAA-designated test sites, housed at the University of North Dakota and funded through the ND Department of Commerce. For the last 11 years, the NPUASTS has been advancing UAS and advanced air mobility (AAM) integration, positioning ND as policy and integration leaders in aviation.

- **Key roles:** Federal Recognition: Supports the FAA and DOT in shaping national aviation policy.
- **Expertise:** Provides leadership in aviation operations, safety, and R&D for cutting-edge technology.
- **Collaboration:** Partners with industry and government Economic
- **Impact:** Strengthens North Dakota's economy and offers opportunity for young professionals. Has up to \$8M spending authority on Federal Contracts.



Vantis, established in 2021, is a statewide beyond-visual-line-of-sight (BVLOS) network administered by the Northern Plains UAS Test Site (NPUASTS). It combines physical infrastructure (radar and communication radios) with digital systems (airspace management and mission planning) to enable safe and scalable UAS operations.

Key benefits:

- **Airspace Safety:** Monitors airspace and flights to prevent conflicts.
- **Unlocking Critical Use Cases:** Supports medical deliveries, agriculture and energy inspections, and first responder operations.
- **Expanding Coverage:** Currently spans 3,000+ square miles in Western ND, with new volumes launching in Grand Forks, Fargo, and other areas in 2025-2026.
- **National Leadership:** Setting policy standards & only State to work exclusively with FAA to receive radar data.



Since 2013, GrandSKY, located in Grand Forks County, has been charged with operating the only commercial UAS flight test and operations center in the U.S. By way of enhanced use land agreement with the County of Grand Forks and U.S. Air Force, GrandSKY enables shared infrastructure, including a runway, aprons, air traffic control and radar services, and emergency response. GrandSKY is a destination for DoD and commercial clients who bring innovations and jobs to ND.

Key facts:

- **Key Tenants:** Northrop Gruman, General Atomics and Vantis
- **State Investment:** Since 2013, North Dakota has invested \$33M in GrandSKY infrastructure.
- **Private Sector Growth:** This investment has leveraged \$159M in private sector funding for facilities, aircraft, and equipment—a 4.81:1 return on state dollars.
- **Job Creation:** GrandSKY has created 269 direct jobs, with an average salary of \$117,928, in one of the fastest-growing sectors of aviation.