



L3HARRIS™

December 22, 2020

Honorable Jeff Delzer
Chairman, House Appropriations Committee
2919 Fifth Street NW
Underwood, ND 58576

Dear Chairman Delzer,

I am writing to you in support of Governor Burgum's recent budget request of \$27M for Fiscal Year 2021-2023 to fund Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) activities in the State of North Dakota. L3Harris Technologies has been a mission partner with the State and commercial UAS entities since 2015. Our joint research and development efforts with the University of North Dakota (UND) Research Institute for Autonomous Systems have led to advancements and innovation in providing aviation-grade, ground-based surveillance and Detect-and-Avoid capabilities. These safety-critical technologies will ensure the proper integration of UAS into the National Airspace System in accordance with the Federal Aviation Administration's UAS Concept of Operations.

We are especially encouraged by the Governor's specific request to direct \$20M of Legacy Fund earnings to support continued development of the North Dakota statewide beyond-visual-line-of-sight UAS network. In collaboration with UND Research Institute for Autonomous Systems and the Northern Plains UAS Test Site, L3Harris developed the proof of concept HUBNET corridor between Fargo and Grand Forks to demonstrate the feasibility and benefits of such a network. This critical research was concluded in 2019 and paved the way for the Test Site to develop the vision and concept of operations for the Vantis network. Earlier this year, L3Harris was awarded as one of the prime system engineering integrators for the Vantis network to develop and deploy the Key Sites in McKenzie and Williams counties in 2021.

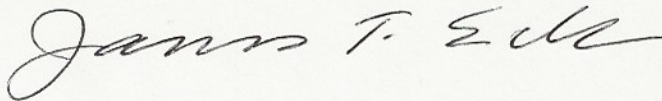
The Vantis network vision to provide comprehensive aviation-grade surveillance, command and control and management services to UAS operators across the entire State of North Dakota will foster future development of UAS commerce, attract new innovative companies and high-paying jobs, provide access to essential human services in rural areas, and enhance the safety of critical infrastructure within the State.

Since the advent of modern UAS, North Dakota has been the clear leader in adapting and integrating these platforms into every facet of American life. From supporting early applications in defense with the Air Force's Predator and Global Hawk programs, to standing up the Northern Plains UAS Test Site and supporting the Grand Sky Business Park, North Dakota has created the world's first UAS ecosystem that serves as a model across the United States. The development of the Vantis network is the latest step in maintaining that leadership by demonstrating operational, political, and financial vision in the integration of UAS. The development and deployment of the Vantis network also represents a positive furthering of the public/private partnerships with both State and Federal entities, and the UAS and aerospace industries.

The integration of UAS operating beyond visual line of sight is the first step in the long-term transformation of how North Dakotans, and all Americans will live, work, commute, and interact in society. Future modes of transportation including advanced air mobility, hypersonic transportation and commercial space transportation all require a state-of-the-art infrastructure ensuring safe and efficient operations. The Vantis network defines the foundation of that infrastructure, leveraging capabilities already operating in today's National Airspace System, and engaging leading aerospace companies like L3Harris to advance technology and bring innovation to meet the changing needs of these new systems.

As a trusted mission partner, we look forward to continuing this critical work on the Vantis program as it matures and grows to service all UAS across the state. We recognize your continued support of all UAS programs, including Vantis, reaffirms that North Dakota will continue as the leader in innovations advancing UAS for years to come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James T. Eck". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "James" being the most prominent part.

James T. Eck

Vice President, Strategy & Business Development, Mission Networks

L3Harris Technologies - Aviation Systems

600 Maryland Ave, SW, Suite 850E, Washington, DC 20024

t 202 730 2540 | m 202 819 5004