

\$\$ APPROPRIATIONS \$\$

→ APPROPRIATIONS
In Commerce Budget

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR M. STRINDEN

NORTH Dakota | Commerce
 Be Legendary.
COMMISSIONER C. SCHILKEN

GRAND FORKS COUNTY
 HEART OF THE RED RIVER VALLEY

AUTHORITY BOARD
 NORTHERN PLAINS UAS TEST SITE

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH DAKOTA

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

NORTHERN PLAINS UAS TEST SITE
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.