

Representative Nathe,

We received the results of the unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) survey from the North Dakota University System this week. With their information included, it appears North Dakota state agencies own a total of 353 UAVs. Of these vehicles, 86.97% were manufactured in China, 9.92% in the USA, 1.70% in France, 0.08% in Switzerland, and 0.06% in Latvia. The country of manufacture counts and percentage distribution for each agency are shown in the table below.

Agency	Number of UAVs				Percentage of UAVs				
	USA	China	France	Latvia	Switzerland	USA	China	France	Latvia
Attorney General - Bureau of Criminal Investigation	0	6	0	0	0		100%		
Bismarck State College	0	13	0	0	0		100%		
Dakota College at Bottineau	1	24	0	0	0	4%	96%		
Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation	0	2	0	0	0		100%		
Department of Mineral Resources - Oil and Gas Division	0	10	0	0	0		100%		
Department of Transportation	4	28	0	0	0	12.50%	87.50%		
Department of Trust Lands	0	1	0	0	0		100%		
Department of Water Resources	0	3	0	0	0		100%		
Game and Fish Department	0	3	0	0	0		100%		
Highway Patrol	0	15	0	0	0		100%		
Lake Region State College	1	29	0	0	0	3.33%	96.67%		
Main Research Center/NDSU Extension Service	3	29	0	0	3	8.57%	82.86%		
Mayville State University	0	4	0	0	0		100%		
Minot State University	0	4	0	0	0		100%		
North Dakota Forest Service	0	2	0	0	0		100%		
North Dakota State College of Science	0	3	0	0	0		100%		
North Dakota State University	0	12	0	0	0		100%		
Parks and Recreation Department	0	1	0	0	0		100%		
Public Service Commission	0	1	0	0	0		100%		
State Historical Society	1	4	0	0	0		100%		
University of North Dakota	22	104	6	2	0	20%	80%		
Valley City State University	0	1	0	0	0	16.42%	77.61%	4.48%	1.49%
Williston State College	3	8	0	0	0	27.27%	72.73%		
Total	35	307	6	2	3				

conduct significantly adverse to the national or economic security of the United States." It defines "covered UAS" as any UAS that:

- Is manufactured, in whole or in part, by an entity domiciled in an adversary country;
- Uses critical electronic components installed in flight controllers, ground control system processors, radios, digital transmission devices, cameras, or gimbals manufactured, in whole or in part, in an adversary country;
- Uses network connectivity or data storage located outside the United States, or administered by any entity domiciled in an adversary country; or
- Contains hardware and software components used for transmitting photographs, videos, location information, flight paths, or any other data collected by the UAS manufactured by an entity domiciled in an adversary country.

The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024 (P.L. 118-31), includes the American Security Drone Act of 2023. The Act provides for prohibitions on procurement, operation, use of federal funds for procurement and operation of, and use of government-issued purchase cards to purchase covered unmanned aircraft systems from covered foreign entities and management of existing inventories of such systems. The Act defines "covered foreign entity" as an entity included on a list developed and maintained by the Federal Acquisition Security Council and published in the System for Award Management and specifies the list will include:

- An entity on the Consolidated Screening List;
- Any entity subject to extrajudicial direction from a foreign government, as determined by the Secretary of Homeland Security;
- Any entity the Secretary of Homeland Security, in coordination with the Attorney General, Director of National Intelligence, and the Secretary of Defense, determines is a national security risk;
- Any entity domiciled in the People's Republic of China or subject to influence or control by the Government of the People's Republic of China or the Communist Party of the People's Republic of China, as determined by the Secretary of Homeland Security; and
- Any subsidiary or affiliate of an entity described above.

Information about the Consolidated Screening List may be found on the United States Department of Commerce International Trade Administration's website.

On June 4, 2024, Congress introduced H.R. 8610 to reauthorize and reform counter-unmanned aircraft system authorities, to improve transparency, security, safety, and accountability related to such authorities, and for other purposes. According to a draft of the bill, the legislation would require certain federal agencies to maintain a list of approved makes and models of counter-UAS detection and mitigation systems, equipment, and technology; would place limitations on the operation of counter-UAS system manufactured by certain foreign enterprises; and would prohibit the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration from acquiring, deploying, operating, or authorizing



FAA Selects NPUASTS for Radar Data Pathfinder Program

Oct 8, 2024

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GRAND FORKS, North Dakota – The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) announced a formal agreement with the state of North Dakota, through the Northern Plains UAS Test Site, a state agency, to use federal radar data to advance the integration of beyond visual line-of-sight (BVLOS) UAS operations into the National Airspace System (NAS).

FAA Deputy Administrator Katie Thomson made the announcement on stage at the UAS Summit & Expo in Grand Forks, North Dakota. The agreement marks a first-of-its-kind, government-to-government release of federal radar data. The data is integrated into Vantis, North Dakota's system for BVLOS UAS operations. The NPUASTS is the first participant in the program.

"This program will take us to the next level, ensuring even greater safety and efficiency as we integrate UAS into the National Airspace System," said Thomson.

"This would not be possible without a tremendous amount of work and collaboration between the State of North Dakota, FAA, and interagency partners, as well as the support of North Dakota's Office of the Governor and the North Dakota Legislative Assembly," said Erin Roesler, Deputy Executive Director, NPUASTS. "We're proud to be collaborating with FAA to address this and other UAS integration concepts."

"We really appreciate the work of Deputy Administrator Thomson and the FAA for their ongoing efforts to discovering the path towards receiving this data and ensuring safe integration into the NAS," said Executive Director Trevor Woods, NPUASTS. "We look forward to this continued collaboration and support from the inter-agency partners and the FAA."

Section 905 of the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2024 establishes a pilot program that allows qualified users to access airspace data feeds. The purpose of the Radar Data Pilot Program is twofold: (1) enable air traffic and UAS traffic management services; and (2) test technologies that may enhance or enable these services. The program focuses on defining security control requirements, validating the suitability of radar data, and demonstrating UAS flight operations.

The program also leverages the unique government-to-government relationship between NPUASTS and the FAA, with support from private sector system integration partner Thales. This collaboration has required the team to establish security requirements that are not only applicable to government entities but also adaptable for private entities. This approach ensures the design and implementation of robust security controls to protect sensitive flight data, while still allowing access to future qualified entities or users, including third-party service suppliers and potentially UAS operators.

What does this mean for UAS integration?

Vantis provides Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) operators with repeatable access to the NAS through safety-critical services and shared-use infrastructure. Through the Radar Data Pilot Program, we can assess how traditional aviation surveillance systems can help expand UAS access beyond specific geographic areas of the country.

This work is complex, with special attention paid to three critical challenges: security, capacity, and utility. For example, how do we use the data to promote integration while protecting the data and dissemination of it at the same time?

What's Next?

The FAA anticipates expanding the release of FAA surveillance data, which up to this point was only intended for North Dakota's Vantis, to more UAS third-party service suppliers by early next year, as required by the legislation.

Vantis is a case study for operator-friendly, BVLOS-enabling shared-use UAS infrastructure. We're seeking state and operator partners who are interested in sharing our progress and lessons learned by adapting the Vantis model and advancing true BVLOS in their communities.

About Northern Plains UAS Test Site

As one of seven FAA-designated UAS Test Sites, the NPUASTS is committed to leading the nation in autonomous technology solutions. Our mission is to innovate, test, and advance these technologies, bringing tangible benefits to communities nationwide. Through high-quality research, commercialization of UAS technologies, and active participation in policy and standards development, the NPUASTS is at the forefront of integrating UAS into the National Airspace System. Visit [NPUASTS.com](https://npuasts.com) for more information.

About Vantis

Vantis is North Dakota's statewide unmanned aircraft system (UAS) beyond-visual-line-of-sight (BVLOS) system, the first of its kind in the nation and administered by the Northern Plains UAS Test Site. Created by North Dakota with an initial investment in 2019, Vantis provides turnkey support to commercial and public UAS operators through infrastructure and regulatory approvals allowing applications and usability over a variety of industries. Visit [VantisUAS.com](https://vantisuas.com) for more information.

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