

PRESS RELEASE

Unmanned Aerial Vehicles NZ (UAVNZ) Takes Off at Wings Over Wairarapa

“Aviation NZ is delighted with the success of the first UAV Symposium and Trade Show as part of Wings over Wairarapa” said Aviation NZ CEO Samantha Sharif.

“As safety, operational and privacy concerns regarding UAVs take centre stage, the pivotal role of UAVNZ in developing a world-class NZ UAV industry cannot be underestimated. UAVNZ is developing Codes of Conduct for UAV operators – and these will go a long way to ensuring we have a safe and professional UAV industry” she added.

Unmanned Aerial Vehicles are one of the fastest growing sectors of the aviation industry with significant economic potential for New Zealand. This event provided a key opportunity for us to promote the benefits of UAVs to businesses and the general public.

The Shared Skies Symposium was a huge success with over 230 attendees including UAV suppliers, service companies, end-users, research groups and government agencies. Highlights included an address by the Director of the Civil Aviation Authority, Graeme Harris, on future policy development, and the Associate Minister of Transport, the Hon Craig Foss, on government initiatives to support innovation and business growth.

The UAVNZ industry association (a division of Aviation NZ) has been formed to maximise the benefits from UAV technologies and develop a world-class commercial UAV industry in New Zealand by:

- Connecting: suppliers and customers, hosting forums and networking events.
- Promoting: UAV companies and services, the benefits of UAV technology, and safe and professional operating practices.
- Supporting: companies by providing templates and standards, engaging with the CAA and the wider aviation industry.

It's a critical time in the industry as many businesses discover the potential of UAV technology to reduce costs and increase productivity, but unsafe practices still capture the headlines. Join UAVNZ now to keep the momentum going and create a safe and sustainable commercial UAV industry in NZ. Join

now by visiting admin1@aia.org.nz.

Aviation NZ is the industry body representing the aviation sector in NZ.

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Notes for Editors:

BACKGROUND

Key Facts About UAVNZ

UAVNZ's purpose is to maximise the benefits from UAV technologies and develop a world-class UAV industry in New Zealand.

UAVs are an emerging industry of remotely piloted aerial vehicles. They are used by commercial operators as well as aviation and technical enthusiasts.

What is the difference between the terms RPAS, UAV, UAS and drone?

These terms are used interchangeably. RPAS means a Remotely Piloted Aircraft System and is a relatively new term that has been adopted by ICAO (International Civil Aviation Organisation) to encompass an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) and everything involved in their operation including software, aircraft, and operation procedures. UAS means an Unmanned Aerial System and includes software and the aircraft vehicle. The term Drone is often used when referring to military use.

Key facts about Aviation New Zealand

Aviation New Zealand exists to lead, inspire and grow the New Zealand aviation industry.

It was established in 1950 to encourage the safe growth of the aviation industry in New Zealand. In more recent years, it has also become involved in helping the international development of its members.

- Aviation New Zealand has over 1000 members and stakeholders
- Members include agricultural companies, air operators (fixed wing and rotary), aircraft designers and manufacturers, airports, aviation trainers, emergency and medical services companies, helicopter companies and parts manufacturers.

Key facts about aviation in New Zealand

An 'early adopter' in aviation terms – first international customer for Boeing; first pilot training school 1916; first airmail 1919; and quick appreciation of the suitability of aviation for agriculture, tourism and forestry.

4502 aircraft in New Zealand, one per thousand people, giving New Zealand one of the highest aircraft per capita ratios in the world.

Decades of policy innovation to support competition, safety and growth; 30m km² of safely managed airspace; and exports to over 80 countries on all continents.

Aircraft fit-outs, new aircraft (including UAVs), GPS track and tracing systems, high precision processes (for example bait and fire fighting), composites, titanium powders, and aviation industry business and operational systems are just some of the exciting technologies and practices developing in New Zealand which set the scene for growth in the next 100 years.