

PRESS RELEASE 21 November 2014

## **Unmanned Aerial Vehicles NZ (UAVNZ) to become a division of Aviation NZ**

"Aviation NZ is delighted to announce that UAVNZ will now become a Division of Aviation NZ" said Aviation NZ CEO Samantha Sharif.

Unmanned Aerial Vehicles are one of the fastest growing sectors of the aviation industry with significant economic potential for New Zealand. We are delighted to partner with UAVNZ to progress the growth of the UAV industry as an integral part of the NZ aviation system.

A key event will be our Shared Skies Symposium, a partnership between, Callaghan Innovation, UAVNZ, the Royal Aeronautical Society and Aviation NZ.

This event will provide a key opportunity for manned operators to have an open dialogue with the growing RPAS community about how we want to share the skies together going forward.

The 2015 Royal Aeronautical Society Symposium will be held on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> January at the Copthorne Hotel & Resort Solway Park, and will focus on the future of flight, the capability of RPAS and their integration into the aviation system.

The symposium will be followed by an RPAS industry tradeshow on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> January, at the Wings Over Wairarapa air show at Hood Aerodrome in Masterton. It will feature a series of live demonstrations of RPAS, which have uses in both recreational and commercial areas including aerial photography, the surveying of farms or real estate, locating missing people or animals and the inspection of electricity cables.

Tickets for the 2015 Wings Over Wairarapa event are now on sale through websites [www.ticketdirect.co.nz](http://www.ticketdirect.co.nz) and [www.wings.org.nz](http://www.wings.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 700 members
- 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 km<sup>2</sup> 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.















