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From: Rob Buckley [REDACTED]
Sent: 18 April 2022 15:55
To: airspace modernisation; [REDACTED]
Subject: [External] Airspace Modernisation (Belated) Consultation Response - Large Model Association

Categories: Replied

Hello,

Sorry for the lateness of the reply to the consultation, and hopefully this response can be taken into account. This response is on behalf of the Large Model Association (LMA).

Model aircraft in the strategy documents are lumped in with RPAS as a type of remotely piloted aircraft system. The use case of model aircraft is different to the use case for RPAS described in the strategy, in that model aircraft (except in very rare circumstances) fly in a fixed volume of airspace VLOS from the pilot who does not move during the flight. The model aircraft do not go anywhere or cross different airspace during the flight.

Model aircraft also generally (but not exclusively) fly from the same fixed point on a regular basis, so the fixed volume of airspace would be either containing model aircraft or not containing model aircraft depending on whether model flying is going on at the time.

The generally fixed nature of model aircraft inside a defined volume of airspace should be taken into account in the strategy, but not as restricting model aircraft to only flying in specific defined volumes of airspace.

The LMA and the BMFA are hoping to participate in uAvionix trials of ground-based beacons to make model flying sites electronically conspicuous, but we would not support a blanket mandate of electronic conspicuity for model flying sites.

Many Thanks

Rob

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