



**SMALL UAV
COALITION**
*A Partnership for
Safety & Innovation*

NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: press@smalluavcoalition.org

Coalition Comments on Creation of Micro UAS ARC Welcomes Industry Collaboration and Call for Flexible and Performance-Based Regulatory Framework

WASHINGTON, DC – February 25, 2016 – The Department of Transportation (DOT) and Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) [announced](#) today the creation of a Micro Unmanned Aerial Systems (micro UAS) Aviation Rulemaking Committee (ARC) to develop recommendations for a regulatory framework that would allow certain UAS to be operated over people not directly involved in the operation of the aircraft, including performance-based standards for the classification of these UAS, compliance requirements, and operational provisions.

The ARC will be co-chaired by FAA UAS Integration Office Director Earl Lawrence and Nancy Egan, General Counsel of 3D Robotics, a Small UAV Coalition member. The Coalition and Coalition members DJI, GoogleX, GoPro, and Intel have also been [invited](#) to participate.

The Coalition has long supported the creation of a micro UAS classification, drawn largely from a concept proposed in the preamble to the FAA's Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on small UAS, that will both enhance the safety of the National Airspace System and seize upon the commercial benefits of the smallest UAS. In its [comments](#) on the NPRM, the Coalition urged the FAA to pursue a flexible and performance-based regulatory framework for small UAS weighing 4.4 pounds and under and was pleased to see these concepts noted in today's announcement. The Coalition has also filed several [comments](#) in support of petitions to operate over people not directly involved in UAS operations.

The ARC will deliver its recommendations to the FAA on April 1, at which point the FAA intends to initiate a rulemaking proposal that could result in a lengthy process. In the meantime, the Coalition has been working with Congress to more expeditiously implement a micro UAS classification. Earlier this month, the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee adopted with broad bipartisan support an [amendment](#) to FAA reauthorization legislation offered by Rep. Rodney Davis (R-IL) that would establish a micro UAS classification immediately upon enactment of the law. A similar provision is included in Rep. Earl Blumenauer's (D-OR) [Commercial UAS Modernization Act](#). Neither of these proposals contemplates flights over people not involved in the operation of the UAS and the Coalition continues to urge Congress to enact a micro UAS classification in upcoming FAA reauthorization legislation while the ARC's work concerning flights over persons gets underway.

The Coalition thanks the Secretary and the Administrator for embarking on another industry-inclusive effort to consider the regulatory framework outside of the small UAS rulemaking. Many

Coalition members participated in the UAS Registration Task Force and the Coalition would welcome additional collaborations to consider other issues, such as operations beyond the visual line of sight and traffic management.

Small UAV Coalition members include Airmap, Amazon Prime Air, DJI, DroneDeploy, GoogleX, GoPro, Intel, Kespry, Parrot, PrecisionHawk, Verizon Ventures, 3D Robotics, AGI, Botlink, Flirtey, StratAero, and ZeroTech. For more information on the Small UAV Coalition, please visit www.smalluavcoalition.org, contact press@smalluavcoalition.org, or follow @smallUAVs on Twitter.

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