



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

**NEWS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Coalition Comments on Micro UAS ARC Report**

**Looks Forward to Addressing Full Range of UAS Integration Issues in the Near Future**

**WASHINGTON, DC – APRIL 6, 2016** – On April 1, the Micro UAS Advisory and Rulemaking Committee (ARC) submitted to the FAA Administrator a final report proposing recommendations focused primarily on performance standards for the operation of small unmanned aerial systems (sUAS) over people (OOP). (Although the ARC was named the Micro UAS ARC, its recommendations cover operations over people by UAS of varying weights.) The Small UAV Coalition applauds the Micro UAS ARC for proposing performance standards, manufacturer compliance requirements, and operational provisions, that are risk-based, that would allow certain UAS to be operated over people not directly involved in the operation of the aircraft. The ability to safely operate UAS over populated areas is critical to realizing the full potential of commercial and recreational UAS applications, and enabling the United States to fully and safely embrace the vast economic and consumer benefits of UAS as a whole. The forward-thinking approach of the ARC is consistent with the more comprehensive approach contained in the FAA reauthorization bill pending in the Senate, which the Coalition supports.

While the Micro UAS ARC report is an important step forward in addressing an issue critical to the safe and widespread integration of UAS into the national airspace, the report addressed only one of several critical elements necessary to achieve safe and widespread UAS integration. The FAA, in partnership with industry, must continue development of standards to authorize operations beyond visual line of sight (BVLOS) and highly automated operations, and the establishment of low altitude unmanned aircraft traffic management system, . The Small UAV Coalition looks forward to working with industry leaders, lawmakers, and regulators in addressing these topics and continuing work toward the safe and expeditious integration of UAS into the national airspace.

With respect to UAS operations over people, we urge the FAA to authorize OOP in section 333 exemptions while the rulemaking announced by the Administrator today proceeds. In comments submitted to the FAA in the sUAS rulemaking, the Coalition urged the FAA to revise its proposed categorical prohibition on OOP to permit such operations upon a satisfactory showing that such operations can be conducted safely. Even if the final rule expected later this spring generally prohibits operations over people, exemption authority should be available.

We also note that 11 months ago FAA initiated a Pathfinder project with CNN to conduct research into operations over people. We urge the FAA to proceed expeditiously to complete the Pathfinder research. The Coalition welcomes the opportunity for the industry to participate in standard-setting organizations to develop these performance standards expeditiously in order to accelerate the FAA's OOP rulemaking.

Small UAV Coalition members include Airmap, Amazon Prime Air, Google [X], Intel, Kespry, PrecisionHawk, Verizon Ventures, T-Mobile, AGI, Botlink, Flirtey, StratAero, and ZeroTech. For more information on the Small UAV Coalition, please visit [www.smalluavcoalition.org](http://www.smalluavcoalition.org), contact [press@smalluavcoalition.org](mailto:press@smalluavcoalition.org), or follow @smallUAVs on Twitter.

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