



1200 G Street, NW
Suite 500
Washington, DC 20005

P: +1 202-628-6380
W: www.atis.org

ATIS BOARD OFFICERS

Chair of the Board
Andre Fuetsch
AT&T

First Vice Chair
Joseph Hanley
TDS

Second Vice Chair
David Young
Verizon

Secretary
Mark Hess
Comcast

President and CEO
Susan M. Miller
ATIS

September 13, 2019

Re: Liaison Statement on UAV Progress in 3GPP

Dear Georg Mayer (SA chair) and Maurice Pope (SA Secretary),

It has come to the attention of ATIS that 3GPP will prioritize SA2 Work Items in the SA Plenary on Sept 17-20, 2019. One of the work items among the set to be prioritized for SA2 is FS_ID_UAS_SA2 (UID = 820011), "Study on supporting Unmanned Aerial Systems Connectivity, Identification, and Tracking."

ATIS would like to bring to the attention of 3GPP SA that there is regulatory-oriented work ongoing in North America that requires support by the 3GPP system. Specifically, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is participating in the development of the Remote ID standard being defined by the ASTM F38.02 working group. As a reminder, Remote ID is a set of requirements and solutions to enable safe UAV flight in congested areas, over people, and in Beyond Visual Line of Sight (BVLOS) conditions and is considered the major enabler for UAV flight. One of the ASTM requirements has been to develop a standard compatible with the European Union regulations and has achieved this by ensuring wide participation from US entities and in particular EU key players in the area.

Also, on 11 June 2019 common European rules on UAVs (Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/945 & Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/947) have been published to ensure UAV operations across Europe are safe and secure. The new rules, being developed as a requirement by ICAO (International Civil Aviation Organization), include technical and operational requirements for UAVs, defining the capabilities an UAV must have to be flown safely (including UAV identification), and rules covering UAVs not requiring prior authorization as well as UAVs requiring certified aircraft and operators, and UAV authorization. The new rules will replace existing national rules in EU Member States.

Finally, the Global Unmanned Aircraft Systems Traffic Management (UTM) Association (GUTMA), an association including all key players on UAVs, is working on aviation industry needs for UAVs, and is sending a liaison statement to 3GPP indicating the need to support the FS_ID_UAS-SA2 study item.

Ensuring the 3GPP ecosystem puts in place the building blocks to enable regulatory requirements from North America, EU, and the International community that would

enable the deployment of safe commercial flight solutions for UAVs around the world should be considered important work for 3GPP. Therefore, ATIS recommends ensuring that the FS_ID_UAS-SA2 study item is not de-prioritized by TSG SA and is included in the Release 17 work package. Otherwise such work would be delayed at least a year, which might lead aviation regulators to look to other technical options that exclude the 3GPP ecosystem, causing 3GPP to miss the opportunity for the foreseeable future.

Sincerely,

Iain Sharp
Chair, ATIS UAV Ad Hoc Group