



UAS America Fund Comments on FAA's 55 Pound Rule

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Washington DC, Friday, February 20, 2015. The UAS America Fund, LLC ("UAS Fund") applauds the significant milestone achieved by the Federal Aviation Administration ("FAA") when on Sunday, February 15, 2015, it issued a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking ("NPRM") on the Operation and Certification of Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems ("sUAS" or "55-pound Rule"). Issuance of the FAA's 55-pound Rule has been highly anticipated and is an important first step toward commercialization of unmanned aircraft in the United States.

The UAS Fund also congratulates the FAA for its reasonable drafting approach. Matthew Bieschke, President of UAS America Fund, noted, "We are pleased to see that the FAA has listened to industry voices seeking a less burdensome rule for small UAS." For example, creation of a new Operating Certificate for unmanned aircraft pilots is an appropriate course of action given the significant differences between piloting manned versus unmanned aircraft. Further, not imposing a requirement for airworthiness certification for sUAS is prudent, as the pace of technological innovation is far too great to be saddled with a lengthy and burdensome certification process.

According to Michael Dymont, a General Partner of the UAS Fund, "Unfortunately, the 55-pound Rule does nothing for beyond-line-of-sight or autonomous operations. Both of these concepts will be critical in order to tap the full economic and market value of unmanned aircraft." Over-the-horizon as well as autonomous flights will deliver considerable improvements and efficiencies in business operations across many industry sectors, and will allow for accelerating societal and social benefits of unmanned aircraft.

The 55-pound Rule will likely take 18-24 months to become law. This delay will continue to stymie innovation and R&D activities by U.S. companies, universities and research organizations, thus delaying job creation and billions of dollars in new economic activity associated with this emerging technology.

The UAS Fund discussed an alternative approach to regulating small UAS in December with the White House, citing benefits of a more segmental and incremental approach to regulation. The UAS Fund filed its Micro Unmanned Aircraft ("mUA") Proposal for Rulemaking with the FAA in late December 2014. The mUA Proposal presented full regulatory language to allow for three-pound and under UAS to be operated commercially within a defined set of operational parameters. UAS Fund included in this submittal a complete safety study based on FAA data which shows that three-pound UAS operating below 400 feet above ground and more than five miles from airports will pose no significant added risk to other airspace users than the tens of billions of birds flying today.

"We are very pleased that OMB heard our message and required the FAA to include consideration for a more lightly-regulated very small UAS category in the NPRM," Bieschke added.

Today, the UAS America Fund announces that it will lead a national campaign to encourage FAA to issue a Final Rule on its Micro Unmanned Aircraft Proposal for Rulemaking in 2015.

Please go to <http://www.uasamericafund.com/message-board.html> and provide your contact to receive additional information on how industry participants can help this campaign

UAS America Fund, LLC, established in 2014, will provide \$2.2 billion in private-sector financing to benefit the emerging commercial UAS sector of the U.S. aerospace industry. By investing in UAS control and communications systems, surveillance and data centers, and UAV development and integration efforts, the UAS Fund plans to unlock the full benefits of UAS commercialization, economic development and job creation in the United States.

Additional information can be found at www.UASAmericaFund.com