NSPS UAS Committee
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French inventor Aime Laussedat was the first man to marry a camera and an aircraft when he tied a camera to a kite in 1858. Since then, humankind has been infatuated with flight and photography. We have strapped sensors to many types of aircraft to see the world from a different perspective. This perspective has allowed scientists, land surveyors, and mappers to delineate the earth in ever more meaningful ways. Achieving success in this industry, with traditional aircraft and methods, takes many years of study and training in all aspects of flight and technology. Now, unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) is an addition to this tool box. Along with the additional perspectives from UAS flight, comes the need to ensure that this technology is used both appropriately and safely. Because of this, the National Society of Professional Surveyors (NSPS) created an Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) Committee during its Fall 2016 meeting. The committee is comprised of land surveyors from around the country. Specifically, its roles are to:

- Promote UAS technology within the national community of professional surveyors
- Actively provide educational resources for both surveyors and their clients
- Establish mapping standards as needed specific to UAS use by surveyors that meet the accuracy standards of conventional sources
- Develop a certification program for surveyors using UAS
- Work with governmental agencies to guide UAS legislation that confirms and promotes the use of UAS by professional surveyors
- Liaison with the American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ASPRS), Association for Unmanned Vehicle Systems International (AUVSI) and other organizations involved with the development, promotion and commercial use of UAS
- Establish a database for NSPS with the current laws and regulations as well as other informational resources for access by surveying professionals who are interested in using, or who are already using, UAS for surveying.

One of the essential functions of the NSPS UAS Committee is enhancing the bridge between NSPS and other established UAS organizations. By working together, the NSPS committee hopes to ensure clear and consistent communication across all related industries. We think other industries that employ UAS will benefit from the land surveyor’s positioning knowledge, and the land surveying community will benefit from the UAS industry’s expertise in aircraft, regulations, business issues, equipment and flight. Currently, NSPS is working with AUVSI leadership to become an affiliate member. It is hoped that this collaboration will help with communication and assistance to the NSPS membership. It is also hoped that this relationship will help NSPS and its members to gain useful knowledge, industry connections and regulatory agency interaction. Our committee believes we can all work together to ensure the safe and appropriately regulated use of UAS.

Please join us in promoting the shared goals of our organizations: safe, legal and expert use of UAS in the National Airspace System (NAS) of the U.S.

If you wish to contact the committee, please write to uasinfo@nsps.us.org.