



Invest in new technology and opportunities



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Unmanned Aerial and Underwater Vehicles Research and Development including workforce training and business development \$10M

ACUASI has the potential to be the best program in drone technology and operations in North America, and, working with the State of Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF), Alaska has the potential to be the leading state for drone development and activities. UA is participating in FAA rule-making efforts to develop regulations that allow for the complete integration of drones in the airspace. As these efforts come to fruition, beyond the visual line of sight (BVLOS) flights become a reality, opening new possible industries and applications. The further a drone can fly from its pilot, the more useful it becomes. Since drones can access areas that humans cannot, they are ideal for search and rescue situations, as well as for delivering emergency supplies to remote locations.

UA is well positioned to prepare the workforce for drone cargo logistics, aerospace engineering of aircraft and payloads, piloting skills, drone business oversight, and other aspects of the new drone commercial enterprise.

Investment Priorities

The requested funding is designated to help break technological and regulatory barriers and identify and develop the educational programs needed as a foundation for the commercial drone industry.

- The Alaska Center for Unmanned Aircraft Systems Integration (ACUASI) and its partners (e.g. commercial/private, state/local government, native corporations) are testing technologies that would allow the drone to detect other aircraft in the air and either autonomously, or with the assistance of its pilot, avoid the other aircraft.
- The funding is designated to help break these technological and regulatory barriers and identify and develop the educational programs needed as a foundation for the commercial drone industry.
- The UAF Glider Lab would be able to deepen or develop new partnerships with Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADFG) and the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC). Programs that would have appropriate focus and jurisdiction include: marine realm ADFG fish and shellfish management and research; the ADFG Marine Mammal Program; the ADFG Chinook Salmon Research Initiative; and the ADEC Division of Spill Prevention and Response.
- Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) Pilot Training Program funding will support the development of comprehensive training and certifications at UAA for the operation of unmanned aerial systems, in accordance with FAA guidelines for flight over populated areas.