



Beyond the visual line of sight (BVLOS) flights and integration into public airspace open new possible industries.

## UA drone program FY25 - \$10M

- The Alaska Center for Unmanned Aircraft Systems Integration (ACUASI) will continue to develop expanded drone test and evaluation capabilities for drone and payload manufacturers across the state.
- ACUASI helps raise the profile of Alaska's drone industry and capabilities through the annual Governor's Autonomous Systems conference and a public relations campaign, and supports the State's agencies' drone efforts.
- 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 drone commercial enterprise.
- 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 delivering emergency supplies to remote locations.
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- Nenana's airport will be the site of a new 4,800-square-foot hangar for ACUAI. The hangar will serve as a base for drone cargo test flights between Fairbanks and the small city 54 miles to the southwest.
- UAF is one of seven FAA-designated unmanned aircraft systems test sites established to develop and test drone technology. It has numerous flight test areas around the country.
- The Federal Aviation Administration in February granted a regulatory waiver to the UAF unmanned aircraft systems test site.
- In July Merlin, the aviation technology company, successfully completed 25 test flights in Alaska in partnership with ACUASI.

