Issue/Topic
U.S. Department of Interior (DOI) Call-When-Needed (CWN) UAS Contract Usage Update

Key Messages
- This contract reinforced DOI’s commitment to collaborate with industry and was key to implementing a new and aggressive approach to combatting the threat of large wildfires outlined in Secretary Zinke’s Wildland Fire Directive of September 2017.
- Companies receiving awards included, Bridger Aerospace of Bozeman, Montana (Silent Falcon), Insitu of Bingen, Washington (flying Scan Eagle), Pathways2Solutions of Nashville, Tennessee (flying Bramor) and Precision Integrated of Newberg, Oregon (flying Stalker XE).
- CWN UAS have played a significant role in real time fire perimeter mapping, hotspot detection, and real time direction of firefighting assets. Sample mission video link.
- As of 9-18-18, CWN UAS have been deployed on 15 separate fires in 5 States (WA, MT, CA, OR, NV), accumulating 382 flight hours on 86 flights (4.4 hour/flight avg.).
- BLM fires accounted for 5% of the hours and 17% of flights, on USFS fires, 80% of the hours and 72% of flights, and State/FS fires 15% of the hours and 10% of flights.
- Scan Eagle has flown 87% of the hours and 56% of the flights; avg. 6.9 hrs/flt.
- Silent Falcon has flown 12% of the hours and 41% of the flights: avg. 1.3 hrs/flt.
- Bramor has flown 1% of the hours and 3% of the flights; avg. 1.8 hrs/flt. Bramor suffered an inflight mishap on its fourth flight in August and has not been used since.
- Stalker did not meet the post-contract award readiness requirements.
- Contract usage data and UAS selection decisions by incident managers provides valuable feedback for future UAS vehicle, sensor, and processing requirements.

Background
On May 15, 2018, as part of a broader strategy to aggressively combat wildfires, DOI awarded a CWN contract to four U.S. companies for small-unmanned aircraft systems services. This first of its kind contract enabled Interior and its interagency partners to obtain fully contractor-operated and maintained small drones that are ready when needed to support wildland fire operations, search and rescue, emergency management and other resource missions across the U.S.

Current Status
- CWN UAS remain available to DOI and interagency partners as the 2018 fire year continues.

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