

**BEFORE THE
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION
WASHINGTON, D.C.**

IN THE MATTER OF

Petition of Hood Tech Corp Mechanical Inc. for Exemption

Docket Number: FAA-2016-5931

COMMENTS OF THE SMALL UAV COALITION

Gregory S. Walden
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April 13, 2017

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Introduction

The Small UAV Coalition¹ is pleased to provide its comments in support of the petition by Hood Tech Corp Mechanical Inc. (“Hood Tech”) for an exemption to operate a tethered unmanned aircraft weighing up to 300 pounds to conduct engineering test flights and customer demonstration flights of Hood Tech’s UAV launch and retrieval product currently in development. The product development is intended to provide support for “firefighters, first responders, railroad operators, surveillance contractors and members of the US military[.]”

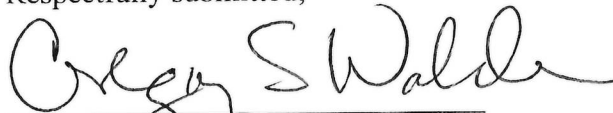
The 200-foot tether will have a 5,000 pound test minimum breaking strength and at least 200 pounds of ground anchor (according to Hood Tech, not less than 20 times the maximum theoretical life capability of the UAV). Importantly, UAS operations will be conducted on private property (we assume it will be with the consent of the property owner) and traffic restrictions will be put in place to keep non-involved persons from entering the “crash radius” of the tether.

The Coalition supports Hood Tech’s petition to operate a UAV up to 300 pounds in consideration of the safety precautions taken by Hood Tech and any FAA’s standard condition or limitations, including any conditions imposed in Exemption No. 11488 if necessary to mitigate any increase in risk due to the weight of the UAS. The Coalition believes that it is in the public interest to grant exemptions to promote the development of technologies to assist fire fighters and first responders.

Accordingly, the Coalition supports Hood Tech’s petition for exemption.

¹ Members of the Small UAV Coalition include AirMap, Amazon Prime Air, Google[x] Project Wing, Intel, Kespry, PrecisionHawk, Verizon Ventures, Aerwaze, AGI, Flirtey, Fresh Air Educators, T-Mobile, and Walmart.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gregory S. Walden". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "G" and "S".

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