Global UTM Association, Drone Alliance Europe, Small UAV Coalition & UAV DACH Joint Statement on U-space

Amsterdam, 4th December 2019

Drone Alliance Europe (DAE), the Small UAV Coalition, the Global UTM Association (GUTMA) and UAV DACH, four leading drone associations, share a common vision on U-space services and the basic principles of U-space architecture. The institutions of the European Union (EU) are currently developing a set of U-space services and procedures to support safe, efficient and secure access to airspace for drones.

We fully endorse the EASA objectives set forth in its U-space services Draft Opinion, to:

- *promote safe, secure and environmentally friendly operations of aircraft in the U-space airspace while respecting the privacy of European citizens;*
- *maintain the current safety levels for manned aviation;*
- *create the conditions for an internal EU market for U-space services; and*
- *ensure fair and affordable access to the U-space airspace to all airspace users.*

In support of these objectives, DAE, GUTMA and their respective members have provided to EASA a comprehensive list of constructive comments and suggestions to help EASA with the further work needed on the Draft Opinion.

Digitalization is essential to address the growing number of drone operators and operations. It is important to note that in a digital ecosystem, trusted data might be provided by multiple authorized entities. However, data sharing must be governed by common rules with mechanisms to ensure authentication, consistency and integrity. We support a federated system of U-space service providers that is risk-based, operator focused, and performance-centric.

We support global U-space/UTM harmonization and encourage regulation to reflect industry standards; we are engaged with standards bodies around the world including ISO and ASTM International, among others. However, it is also essential that harmonization with already existing airspace regulations is done, and we recognise that efforts remain to evaluate the impact that any new U-space regulation might have on these, is carefully examined. We favour a system that provides a clear allocation of responsibilities and thus ensures efficient cooperation among all U-space stakeholders. Given the variety of European stakeholders, the availability of open source solutions and application program interfaces (API) are needed to provide the necessary flexibility and interoperability between Member State U-space services.

While the types of U-Space providers are diverse, there are entities who want to provide services throughout Europe, in a single European market. There are also those who

intend to provide services in just a single country. The ability to serve Europe or a country provides flexibility for a range of business models. Common rules and U-space services will help UAS operators scale safer and more secure operations. A successful European U-space regulation must be an enabler for broader and more complex UAS operations.

A federated U-space ecosystem is the best way to develop a sustainable European drone market that is responsible, trusted and flourishing. The members of our respective Associations are committed to support the Agency, the European Commission and EU Member States in their work.