



Office of Aviation Services

Briefing Paper – For Information



Date: 9/19/18

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/ft.**
- **Silent Falcon** has flown 12% of the hours and 41% of the flights: avg. **1.3 hrs/ft.**
- **Bramor** has flown 1% of the hours and 3% of the flights; avg. **1.8 hrs/ft.** 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.

Point of Contact

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