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Drone Alliance Europe Applauds Release of U-Space Blueprint

**Urges Continued Progress on Highly-Automated, Interoperable Unmanned Traffic
Management System**

THE HAGUE, NETHERLANDS – 20 April 2017 – Today, the SESAR Joint Undertaking released a working draft of the blueprint for U-Space, which seeks to refine the concept of U-Space and establish a timeline for the introduction of safe, widespread drone operations throughout Europe by 2019. Drone Alliance Europe (DAE) has long called for the establishment of a low-cost, interoperable unmanned traffic management (UTM) system in Europe and applauds the release of the blueprint. Looking forward, DAE urges all stakeholders to expeditiously move towards UTM implementation so that businesses and consumers can begin to fully and safely realize the economic potential of drone technology.

The success of the U-Space initiative is contingent upon a reliable and efficient UTM system. In order to accommodate the unprecedented growth of the drone industry, the UTM system cannot rely on the legacy air traffic control approach. Instead, we must concentrate on utilising emerging technologies and standards to develop a platform on which a highly-automated UTM system can flourish. We must do so now to create a solid foundation for traffic management amid exponential industry growth.

DAE members are committed to safe and widespread integration of advanced drone operations, including those beyond visual line of sight, over people, and at night, with varying degrees of autonomy. A UTM system requiring registration and remote identification will enable safe, secure integration that ensures both privacy and security.

However, equally importantly, the DAE encourages the Commission, SESAR, and industry stakeholders to pursue standards-based solutions to the day-to-day operations of the U-Space with the same degree of urgency. Standards are essential to a highly-automated UTM system and provide transparency and uniformity that promotes interoperability. In the near-term, DAE encourages all stakeholders to leverage existing technologies wherever possible, including, for example, cloud-based services and computing and existing commercial mobile networks, to establish a safe, secure, and interoperable UTM system.

We believe that development and implementation of a highly-automated, interoperable, and affordable UTM framework through this U-Space initiative has the potential to unleash tremendous economic growth, job creation, innovation, and broad societal benefits of drone

technology and further promote European leadership in research, production, and application of this technology. For more on DAE's vision for drone traffic management in Europe, see our 2016 [white paper](#).

We thank Commissioner Bulc for spearheading the U-Space concept and supporting widespread, expeditious drone integration. We also thank the Commission and SESAR for the opportunity to participate in the development of the blueprint for U-Space. DAE looks forward to playing a leading role in the U-Space Working Group to make this vision a reality.

For more information on Drone Alliance Europe, please visit dronealliance.eu, contact press@dronealliance.eu, and follow [@DroneAllianceEU](https://twitter.com/DroneAllianceEU) on Twitter.

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