



Regulation of Unmanned Aircraft Systems in Hong Kong

Picture



Background

Hong Kong is a densely populated city with busy air traffic (both helicopter and airliner). Any person who operates Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) must stay vigilant and follow the related safety requirements. With UAS as emerging technology and the increased use by both professionals and hobbyists, the operations of UAS could pose a safety risk to the public and their properties.

To ensure aviation safety and the protection of persons and properties on the ground, there is a need for the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government (HKSARG) to review and enhance the existing regulation regime of UAS so as to keep in pace with the developments.

Goals

The objective is to study international UAS regulatory practices and to recommend improvement to the legislative framework and regulations for safe operation of UAS in Hong Kong, with reference to:

- The local environment,
- The development of UAS technology, and
- An assessment of current practices in Hong Kong.

The study aims to produce recommendations that can strike a reasonable balance between facilitating the use of UAS by the public and protecting the safety of the public.

Utilisation

A set of operations standards and requirements for different defined classes of UAS are proposed. This concerns standards and requirements with respect to e.g. registration, identification and geo-fencing; operating limitations, responsibilities of the operator, the operations manual, safety assurance, and training, assessment and licensing of remote pilots, insurance etc. These have been brought forward by the Civil Aviation Department (CAD) of Hong Kong for public consultation in 2018. Based on the outcome, the CAD will develop a strategic framework of implementation measures in Hong Kong in both short-term (2018-20) and medium/long-term (2020 onwards) approaches.