NATIONAL DRONE AND ADVANCED AIR MOBILITY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ACT
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
MAY 2023

The purpose of this Act to ensure United States leadership in unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) and advanced air mobility (AAM) by supporting research and development (R&D), improving interagency planning and coordination, and promoting domestic manufacturing.

Interagency Activities
The bill establishes an interagency working group, comprised of NASA, DOT, NOAA, NSF, NIST, DHS, and other appropriate agencies to coordinate Federal R&D to enable UAS and AAM systems. The group is responsible for developing and implementing a strategic research plan for UAS and AAM as well as a counter-UAS (C-UAS) research plan. Within the group, NIST is responsible for establishing a National Drone Technology Center, subject to funding availability.

National Drone and Advanced Air Mobility Research Institutes
The bill authorizes a network of Drone and Advanced Air Mobility Institutes to be supported across federal research agencies and mission agencies. The bill directs NASA to establish a program to award financial assistance to plan, establish, and support National Drone and Advanced Air Mobility Research Institutes and the network for Institutes to be known as the "Drone Leadership Network" to coordinate cross-cutting R&D carried out by the Institutes.

National Institute of Standards and Technology Activities
This bill supports activities at NIST for UAS and AAM; directs NIST to create voluntary data-sharing arrangements; and directs NIST to establish a prize competition. The bill updates the Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) Program to include critical and emerging technologies; directs a survey on MEP capabilities to domestically manufacture UAS; and directs the Manufacturing USA Program to include UAS manufacturing R&D.

National Science Foundation Activities
The bill supports research activities at NSF for UAS and AAM, the development of a workforce to support the UAS and AAM industries and directs NSF to support public-private partnerships for domestic development of UAS and AAM.

National Aeronautics and Space Administration Activities
The bill authorizes NASA to direct R&D and other activities to facilitate the safe integration of UAS and AAM into the National Airspace System. The bill also directs NASA to establish a national pilot program to carry out UAS technology competitions for high school and undergraduate-level students.

Department of Energy Activities
This bill directs DOE to carry out a RD&D program to advance UAS technologies, capabilities, and workforce needs to improve the reliability of UAS implementation methods relevant to the mission of DOE.

Department of Homeland Security Activities
The bill supports activities at DHS Science and Technology Directorate (S&T) for UAS, AAM and C-UAS. This bill establishes a C-UAS center of excellence to carry out R&D that improves C-UAS activities.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Activities
This bill directs NOAA to carry out R&D to advance technologies, capabilities, and to enhance the deployment of and data collected by UAS.

Federal Aviation Administration Activities
This bill supports research activities at FAA for UAS and AAM. This bill also authorizes partnerships for research, development, demonstration, and testing to carry out R&D on AAM and UAS integration into the National Airspace System.

Limitation
This bill limits the use of foreign UAS, with the exception of C-UAS capabilities.