



UK Research
and Innovation



Innovation Hub

UAS Traffic Management

Developing the Concept

Introduction

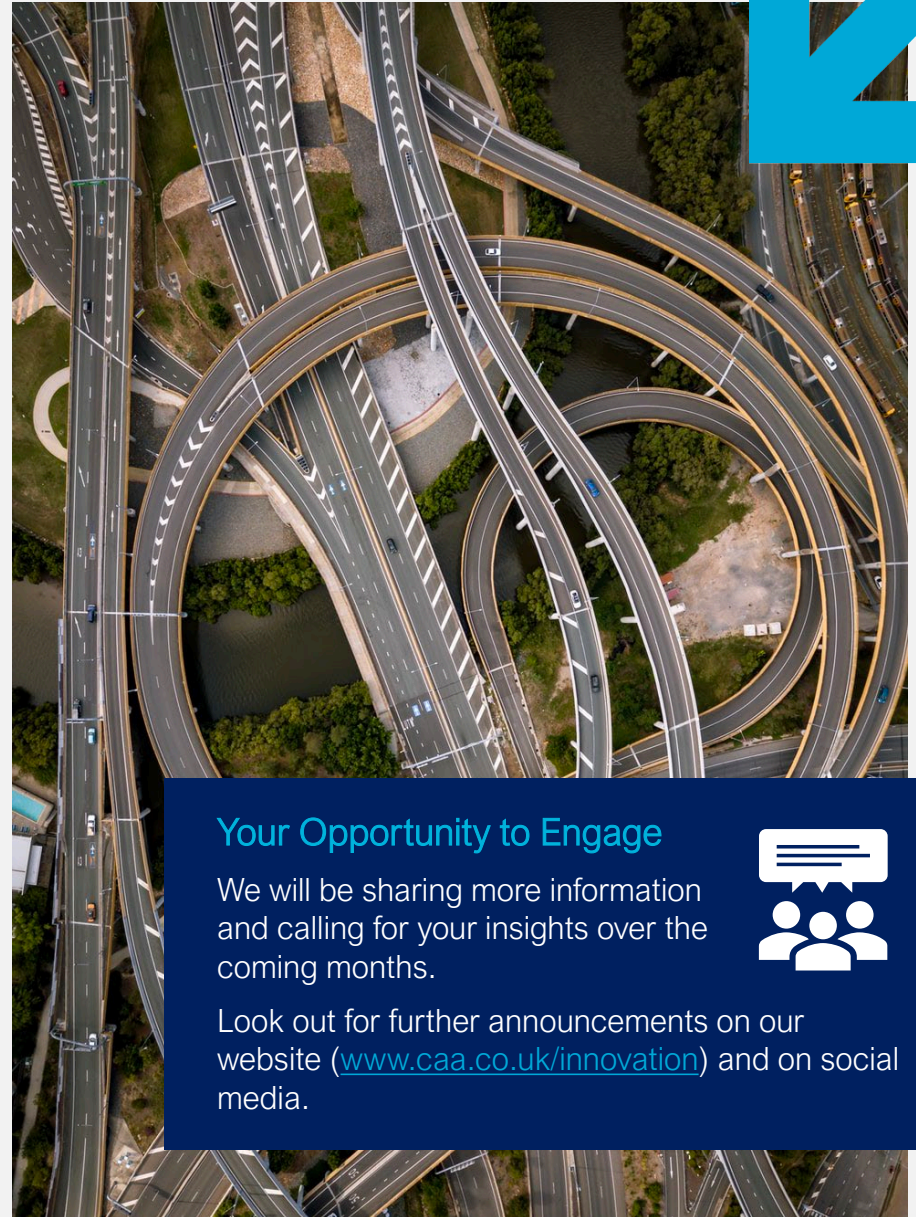
This document sets out how we are exploring the regulatory development of UAS Traffic Management (UTM) in the UK.

UTM, traditionally referring to Unmanned Aircraft System Traffic Management, is defined by ICAO as:

“a specific aspect of air traffic management which manages Unmanned Aircraft System operations safely, economically and efficiently through the provision of facilities and a seamless set of services in collaboration with all parties and involving airborne and ground-based functions”.

UTM is expected to be a significant part of future operations in UK airspace. The CAA must be prepared for this, as there will be elements that we will be required to regulate. To understand these requirements we have [planned a phase of concept development for the regulatory approach to UTM.](#)

This will build on our previous findings in [CAP 1868](#), A Unified Approach to the Introduction of UAS Traffic Management, and will be the basis of the formal regulatory development of a UTM framework in the UK.



Your Opportunity to Engage

We will be sharing more information and calling for your insights over the coming months.

Look out for further announcements on our website (www.caa.co.uk/innovation) and on social media.



Development Plan

Our development plan is focussed on the Strategic, Safety and Market considerations relevant to UTM in the UK.



Strategic

We will articulate our regulatory vision for UTM in the UK, explore whether the name 'UTM' is appropriate and consider how our plan for UTM aligns with broader airspace strategy. We plan to engage with industry and will be responsive to changes in the market and the wider regulatory context.



Safety

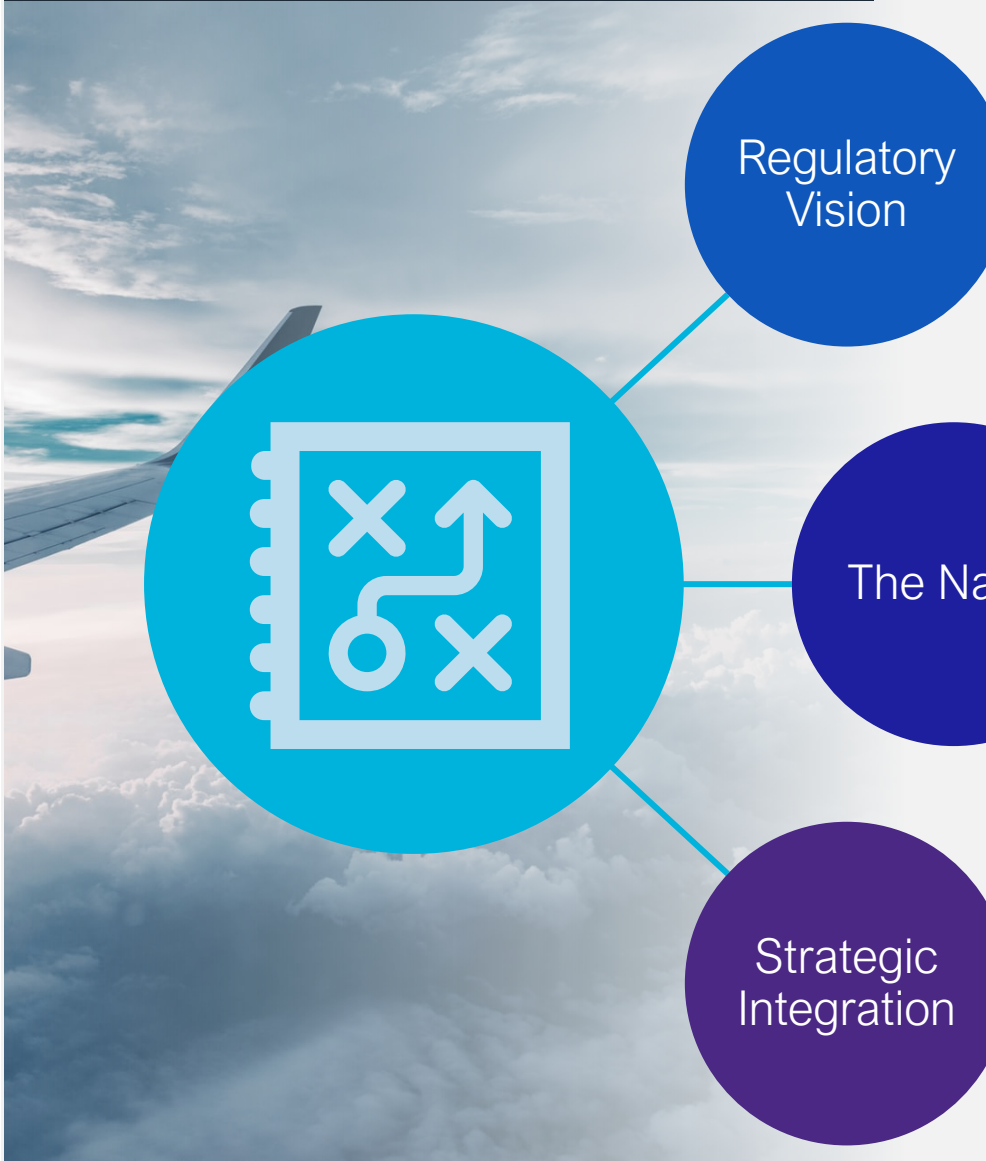
UTM in the UK needs to develop in a way that maximises safety, and establishing a high-level safety framework early on will help ensure that safety is given due weight alongside other factors. We will be engaging with relevant sectors and we plan to publish a call for insight in Autumn 2021 that will be used to help steer formal regulatory development.



Market

As part of our UTM development plan we will consider the market interests of industry and consumers, considering whether there might be a case for regulatory intervention to facilitate the development of UTM markets.

Strategic Considerations



Regulatory Vision

We will articulate the short and long-term visions for UTM in the UK, to help ensure that a new regulatory framework does not inhibit the development of UTM in the years to come.

We plan to publish a brief paper explaining the CAA's vision, which can be updated in the future as the development of UTM progresses.

The Name

We need to consider whether the term 'UTM' accurately reflects what we are looking to achieve in the vision, and are open to changing the name if necessary.

It is important to consider the wider strategic context in the UK, and the role that UTM may provide for different airspace users in the future.

Strategic Integration

We want to ensure that our strategy for UTM ties in with broader strategic considerations, including the Airspace Modernisation Strategy and the policy of the Department for Transport.

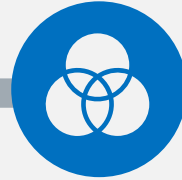
UTM will have impacts across the aviation landscape and will need to integrate into the current aviation ecosystem, and it is key for our UTM strategy to reflect this.

Safety & Market Considerations



Aims

By establishing a high level skeleton framework that considers the safety and market factors of UTM, we will have a basis for deeper analysis, discussion and testing as UTM develops and the wider policy and regulatory landscape evolves.



Considerations

We will need to consider how the regulatory framework for UTM interacts with and can build upon existing regulation, such as Air Traffic Management.

We will also take into account the regulatory approaches to UTM internationally, mindful of the benefits of interoperability.



Activities

We plan to issue calls for insight to gather public feedback on our considerations of the safety and market factors of UTM.

We also plan to hold workshops with industry and support innovators in testing and trialling their UTM proposals through the sandbox process.

Your Opportunity to Engage

We are planning to invite your insights on the safety and market considerations of UTM in **Q4 2021**. Please look out on the Innovation Hub website for more information. Alternatively you can contact innovation@caa.co.uk to join our circulation list.

Further Information

This development plan builds on our recommendations in [CAP1868, A Unified Approach to the Introduction of UAS Traffic Management](#).

Other CAA information which may be of interest includes:

- CAP 722, Unmanned Aircraft System Operations in UK Airspace – Guidance
<http://www.caa.co.uk/cap722>
- CAP 1861, Beyond Visual Line of Sight in Non-Segregated Airspace
<http://www.caa.co.uk/cap1861>
- CAP 1861a, Detect and avoid ecosystem for BVLOS in non-segregated airspace
<http://www.caa.co.uk/cap1861>
- Airspace Modernisation Strategy
<http://www.caa.co.uk/Commercial-industry/Airspace/Airspace-Modernisation-Strategy/Airspace-Modernisation-Update/>



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Images: Unsplash



This guidance has been created by the CAA Innovation Hub in association with the Future Flight Challenge from UK Research and Innovation.