

UA Drones

FY2024 Request: \$10,000,000

Reference No: 64818

AP/AL: Appropriation

Project Type: Research / Studies / Planning

Category: University

Location: Fairbanks (Areawide)

House District: Fairbanks Areawide (HD 1-5)

Impact House District: Fairbanks Areawide (HD 1-5)

Contact: Michelle Rizk

Estimated Project Dates: 07/01/2023 - 06/30/2028 **Contact Phone:** (907)450-8187

Brief Summary and Statement of Need:

Drones, a.k.a. Unmanned Aircraft Systems, stand on the precipice of transforming the methods by which an ever-growing list of activities across multiple industries of import to Alaskans occur. Developing Unmanned Aircraft Systems technologies and conducting operations have the potential to be economic drivers across Alaska. The University of Alaska conducts many of the testing operations needed to support the full integration of drones with traditional aircraft in United States airspace and develop the workforce needed to support this emerging industry in Alaska.

Funding:	<u>FY2024</u>	<u>FY2025</u>	<u>FY2026</u>	<u>FY2027</u>	<u>FY2028</u>	<u>FY2029</u>	<u>Total</u>
1004 Gen Fund	\$10,000,000	\$25,000,000	\$25,000,000	\$20,000,000			\$80,000,000
Total:	\$10,000,000	\$25,000,000	\$25,000,000	\$20,000,000	\$0	\$0	\$80,000,000

<input type="checkbox"/> State Match Required	<input type="checkbox"/> One-Time Project	<input type="checkbox"/> Phased - new	<input type="checkbox"/> Phased - underway	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ongoing
0% = Minimum State Match % Required		<input type="checkbox"/> Amendment	<input type="checkbox"/> Mental Health Bill	

Operating & Maintenance Costs:

	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Staff</u>
Project Development:	0	0
Ongoing Operating:	0	0
One-Time Startup:	0	0
Totals:	0	0

Prior Funding History / Additional Information:

Sec74 Ch11 SLA2022 P185 L17 HB281 \$10,000,000

Project Description/Justification:

UA Drone Program Year 2

The University of Alaska conducts many of the testing operations needed to support the full integration of drones with traditional aircraft in United States airspace and develop the workforce needed to support this emerging industry in Alaska. Drones, a.k.a. Unmanned Aircraft Systems, stand on the precipice of transforming the methods by which remote infrastructure monitoring with the oil and gas industry, medical supply and cargo delivery to aviation-dependent communities, mapping and surveying, wildlife monitoring and protection, and an ever-growing list of new drone applications of import to Alaskans occur. Drones have the potential to conduct these missions more safely and economically than can be done at present and improve the quality of life for people living across Alaska, especially in rural communities.

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Both developing Unmanned Aircraft Systems technologies and conducting Unmanned Aircraft Systems operations have the potential to be economic drivers across Alaska. Additionally, international drone air cargo flights utilizing drone cargo hubs in Alaska, such as the Fairbanks International Airport, have the potential to greatly increase Alaska's international standing as a leading cargo gateway and provide emerging economic opportunities for Alaska. Alaska possesses the perfect environment for testing the technologies, policies, and procedures needed to conduct real-world drone cargo operations with minimal risk to people on the ground and other aircraft. Emerging technologies and supporting educational programs take time to develop. This is year two of a five-year plan.