

**University of Alaska Drones Program - Year Three**

**FY2025 Request: \$10,000,000**

**Reference No: 64818**

**AP/AL:** Appropriation

**Project Type:** Research / Studies / Planning

**Category:** University

**Location:** Fairbanks (Denali/University)

**House District:** Fairbanks Areawide (HD 31 - 35)

**Impact House District:** Fairbanks Areawide (HD 31 - 35)

**Contact:** Michelle Rizk

**Estimated Project Dates:** 07/01/2024 - 06/30/2029

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**Brief Summary and Statement of Need:**

The University of Alaska (UA) 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. Emerging technologies and supporting educational programs take time to develop. This is year three of a multi-year plan.

<b>Funding:</b>	<u>FY2025</u>	<u>FY2026</u>	<u>FY2027</u>	<u>FY2028</u>	<u>FY2029</u>	<u>FY2030</u>	<u>Total</u>
1004 Gen Fund	\$5,000,000						\$5,000,000
1048 Univ Rcpt	\$5,000,000						\$5,000,000
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$10,000,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$10,000,000</b>

<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
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

**Prior Funding History / Additional Information:**

Sec14 Ch1 SLA2023 P111 L22 HB39 \$10,000,000

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

**Project Description/Justification:**

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, also known as Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS), 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 across Alaska, especially in rural communities. Both developing UAS technologies and conducting UAS 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

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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.