

**UAF Alaska Center Unmanned Aircraft System Integration (ACUASI) (Year 4)**

**FY2026 Request: \$6,000,000**  
**Reference No: AMD 64818**

**AP/AL:** Appropriation  
**Category:** University  
**Location:** Fairbanks (Northeast Fairbanks)

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

**Impact House District:** Steele Crk/Two Rivers/Eielson/Salcha (HD 34)

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**Estimated Project Dates:** 07/01/2025 - 06/30/2030 **Contact Phone:** (907)450-8187

**Contact:** Michelle Rizk

**Brief Summary and Statement of Need:**

The University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF) 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:      | FY2026             | FY2027     | FY2028     | FY2029     | FY2030     | FY2031     | Total              |
|---------------|--------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|--------------------|
| 1004 Gen Fund | \$6,000,000        |            |            |            |            |            | \$6,000,000        |
| <b>Total:</b> | <b>\$6,000,000</b> | <b>\$0</b> | <b>\$0</b> | <b>\$0</b> | <b>\$0</b> | <b>\$0</b> | <b>\$6,000,000</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 checked="" 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            |
| <u>One-Time Startup:</u> | <u>0</u>      | <u>0</u>     |
| <b>Totals:</b>           | <b>0</b>      | <b>0</b>     |

**Prior Funding History / Additional Information:**

Sec1 Ch8 SLA2024 P31 L25 SB187 \$6,000,000  
 Sec14 Ch1 SLA2023 P111 L22 HB39 \$10,000,000  
 Sec74 Ch11 SLA2022 P185 L17 HB281 \$10,000,000

**Project Description/Justification:**

The UAF and its partners across the University of Alaska system are working to develop a drone economy in Alaska. This effort includes developing educational pathways into this emerging industry, working with the Federal Aviation Administration to develop rules and regulations that will allow the safe integration of drones with traditional aviation in Alaska, supporting the development and testing of technologies for Alaskan missions created by Alaskan companies, and determining the potential economic and social benefits of the technology to Alaskans, especially those in rural communities.