



## **States and AUVSI Partner to Transform the National Economy with Unmanned Aircraft Systems**

**ALEXANDRIA, Va., July 21, 2016** – The Aerospace States Association (ASA), an association of state Lieutenant Governors, and the Association for Unmanned Vehicle Systems International (AUVSI), the world's largest nonprofit organization dedicated to the advancement of unmanned systems and robotics, have signed an agreement to help transform the national economy with unmanned aircraft systems (UAS).

ASA Chair, Alabama Lt. Governor Kay Ivey, said, “Unmanned aircraft systems have the potential to transform how we move and see things like the internet has transformed how we communicate. UAS are emerging technologies that will transform America by providing wide-ranging economic, environmental, safety, and security benefits. The UAS industry is expected to grow our state economies, create over 100,000 high-paying jobs, and be a source of innovation and inspiration for our youth to enter the STEM workforce.”

“We look to ASA to provide leadership at the state level to advance unmanned aviation as its members have successfully done to expand manned aviation,” said Brian Wynne, president and CEO of AUVSI. “Informing state elected officials about the benefits of unmanned systems and listening to their concerns and interest in this emerging technology are vital to enabling the infrastructure and public policy needed to grow our industry.”

Mr. Wynne will address the ASA annual meeting on July 29 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where he will discuss the recently released FAA “Small UAS Rule.” The two associations will also plan joint efforts to promote the UAS industry in states across the nation.

### **States’ Role in Supporting American Aerospace**

- Educate and train aerospace professionals (the next generation of scientists, engineers and entrepreneurs) who will develop the next generation aviation system and pioneer the frontiers of space.
- Develop, test, and incubate new technologies across a wide spectrum of corporate, academic, and private innovation infrastructures.
- Sponsor aerospace conferences and business roundtables to enable networking among key aerospace leaders.
- Facilitate attractive tax structures, leverage venture capital, and seed public-private partnerships to promote entrepreneurship and expand space enterprise.

- Provide adequate infrastructure (e.g., airports, spaceports, roads, communications, internet access) and leverage unique geographical assets (e.g., landforms, location, climate) to develop terrestrial analog test sites.
- Dedicate public lands for airports, space launch and other aerospace-related activities, and create research, and education centers to both support these programs and facilitate technology transfer.
- Convey the multiple scientific, educational and commercial benefits of space exploration to the general public.

### **About ASA**

ASA is a non-partisan organization representing the grass roots of American aerospace and aviation. It is a 501(c)3 scientific and educational organization of Lieutenant Governors, Governor-appointed delegates and associate members from the aerospace industry, academia, and non-profit organizations. ASA was formed in 1991 to promote a state-based perspective in federal aerospace policy development and to support state aerospace initiatives that enhance economic development opportunities and student/teacher education outreach including the Real World Design Challenge STEM initiative. ASA maintains direct ties to the executive branches of state governments throughout the nation. ASA state chapters work to educate state lawmakers on the benefits and issues of the aerospace community in their state. Find out more at [www.aerostates.org](http://www.aerostates.org).

### **About AUVSI**

The Association for Unmanned Vehicle Systems International (AUVSI) — the world's largest nonprofit organization dedicated to the advancement of unmanned systems and robotics — represents more than 7,500 members from more than 60 countries involved in the fields of government, industry and academia. AUVSI members work in the defense, civil and commercial markets. More information is available at [www.auvsi.org](http://www.auvsi.org)

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