

DOE-ID NEPA CX DETERMINATION

Idaho National Laboratory

SECTION A. Project Title: Liteye cUAS Testing

SECTION B. Project Description and Purpose:

Idaho National Laboratory (INL) has been identified by Liteye as the ideal location to provide counter Unmanned Aircraft Systems (cUAS) systems testing.

In order to effectively field the cUAS systems, real-world testing and evaluation must be accomplished. Contractor will provide physical and personnel resources for testing and evaluating the system. Liteye is testing a new counter UAS system that is being deployed in the near future. They have been unable to test the system fully as there have been limitations to the frequencies they can use and the airspace needed to provide a full system test.

INL will help with frequency allocation, provide airspace utilizing the Certificate of Authorization from the Federal Aviation Administration unique to INL, and provide logistical and UAS flight operations.

The Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) Test Range will be configured to support the UAS flights, as well as operations of the cUAS systems. This arrangement will include, but is not limited to:

- Large structure for additional work/instruction space
- Operator Control Trailer, if needed
- Operation and testing infrastructure (power, internet, etc.)
- UAS Test Range and surrounding area for flight operations

Task No.	Tasks	INL Role/Responsibilities	Liteye Role/Responsibilities
1	Coordinate logistics	Provide off-loading capabilities as needed. Provide temporary storage space.	Prepare logistics and provide information on ETA.
2	Coordinate Test Range	Secure airspace clearance.	Provide a list of desired UAS platforms to be used.
3	UAS Operations	Provide Pilot-in Command (PIC) and necessary observers.	
4	Secure Frequency Spectrum Authority	Coordinate frequency spectrum	Provide frequencies to be used during testing

The activity will take place at the UAS test range. There are no plans to purchase any new equipment. Equipment that Liteye brings on-site will return with them. There is always a risk of a crash. There are strict preflight checklists that are followed for assembly and in preparation to launch. But regardless, there is always that chance. There is a risk of fire in the event of a crash as well. There are "go boxes" that have fire extinguishers in them and all of our trucks have shovels to help mitigate any fire issues. We will recover any downed drone by taking T-roads to the closest point possible and walk from there. Restroom trailers will be used to accommodate personnel.

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SECTION C. Environmental Aspects or Potential Sources of Impact:

Air Emissions

N/A

Discharging to Surface-, Storm-, or Ground Water

N/A

Disturbing Cultural or Biological Resources

Impacts to cultural resources have the potential to result from unexpected events, such as malfunction, when UAVs are forced to the ground to prevent leaving predetermined flight boundaries.

Although the chance for increased biological disturbance within the SGCA is minimal, there is the potential for some impact to wildlife and habitat during the course of the proposed action. Sage grouse could be impacted by noise and soil disturbance in the event of UAV malfunction.

Generating and Managing Waste

Typical municipal waste may be generated to include plastic bottles, paper, etc.

Releasing Contaminants

N/A

Using, Reusing, and Conserving Natural Resources

Project description indicates materials will need to be purchased or used that require sourcing materials from the environment. Being conscientious about the types of materials used could reduce the impact to our natural resources.

SECTION D. Determine Recommended Level of Environmental Review, Identify Reference(s), and State Justification: Identify the applicable categorical exclusion from 10 Code of Federal Regulation (CFR) 1021, Appendix B, give the appropriate justification, and the approval date.

For Categorical Exclusions (CXs), the proposed action must not: (1) threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environmental, safety, and health, or similar requirements of Department of Energy (DOE) or Executive Orders; (2) require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment or facilities; (3) disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA)-excluded petroleum and natural gas products that pre-exist in the environment such that there would be uncontrolled or unpermitted releases; (4) have the potential to cause significant impacts on environmentally sensitive resources (see 10 CFR 1021). In addition, no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposal exist that would affect the significance of the action. In addition, the action is not "connected" to other action actions (40 CFR 1508.25(a)(1) and is not related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts (40 CFR 1608.27(b)(7)).

References:

10 CFR 1021, Appendix B to Subpart D, items B1.2 "Training exercises and simulations," B3.2 "Aviation activities," and B3.11 "Outdoor tests and experiments on materials and equipment components."

Justification:

The proposed action is consistent with 10 CFR 1021, Appendix B to Subpart D categorical exclusion B1.2, "Training exercises and simulations (including, but not limited to, firing-range training, small-scale and short-duration force-on-force exercises, emergency response training, fire fighter and rescue training, and decontamination and spill cleanup training) conducted under appropriately controlled conditions and in accordance with applicable requirements;"

B3.2 "Aviation activities for survey, monitoring, or security purposes that comply with Federal Aviation Administration regulations;" and

B3.11, "Outdoor tests and experiments for the development, quality assurance, or reliability of materials and equipment (including, but not limited to, weapon system components) under controlled conditions. Covered actions include, but are not limited to, burn tests (such as tests of electric cable fire resistance or the combustion characteristics of fuels), impact tests (such as pneumatic ejector tests using earthen embankments or concrete slabs designated and routinely used for that purpose), or drop, puncture, water-immersion, or thermal tests. Covered actions would not involve source, special nuclear, or byproduct materials, except encapsulated sources manufactured to applicable standards that contain source, special nuclear, or byproduct materials may be used for nondestructive actions such as detector/ sensor development and testing and first responder field training."

Is the project funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act) Yes No

Approved by Jason L. Anderson, DOE-ID NEPA Compliance Officer on: 08/02/2022