













THE 5 LEVELS OF DRONE AUTONOMY

Autonomy Level	Level 0	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
Human Involvement						
Machine Involvement						
Degree of Automation	No Automation	Low Automation	Partial Automation	Conditional Automation	High Automation	Full Automation
Description	Drone control is 100% manual.	Pilot remains in control. Drone has control of at least one vital function.	Pilot remains responsible for safe operation. Drone can take over heading, altitude under certain conditions.	Pilot acts as fall-back system. Drone can perform all functions 'given certain conditions'.	Pilot is out of the loop. Drone has backup systems so that if one fails, the platform will still be operational.	Drones will be able to use AI tools to plan their flights as autonomous learning systems.
Obstacle Avoidance	NONE	SENSE & ALERT		SENSE & AVOID	SENSE & NAVIGATE	