

Overview: ISO/TC 20/SC 16, Unmanned Aircraft Systems

ISO/TC 20/SC 16 is a technical subcommittee of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) Aircraft and Space Vehicles technical committee responsible for developing and maintaining standards for unmanned aircraft systems (UAS). Specifically, the scope of the subcommittee is the standardization of materials, components and equipment for construction and operation of the UAS, which consists of the unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) and the ground control station (GCS) and radiocommunication links connecting them. The subcommittee also includes in its scope equipment used in the servicing and maintenance of these systems. Operational standards are also an area that the subcommittee is undertaking. The secretariat is held by United States.

SC 16 convened its inaugural meeting in June 2015 with delegations from five countries in attendance and more signing on as “P” and “O” members during and following that meeting. By late 2015 the subcommittee had drafted outlines for three proposed standards to be undertaken by three approved WGs: general specifications, product systems, and operational procedures. In January 2016 SC 16 initiated 90-day ballots for these three standards and, pending their approval, will commence work in April 2016. Given that this foundational work is underway, now is the opportune time for interested experts to join the subcommittee and add their perspectives and expertise to guide the growth of this fast-emerging technology.

The membership of the committee currently includes 8 P members (participating countries): China, France, Germany, Japan, Russian Federation, Ukraine, United Kingdom, and United States. There are 5 O members (observing countries).

Organizations and companies that are involved in UAS design, manufacturing, and operation or are suppliers to these companies should consider participation.

Chairman: Mr. John Walker (johnwalker@thepadinagroup.com)

Secretary: Mr. Cortney Robinson (cortney.robinson@aia-aerospace.org)

For more information on how to get involved with ISO/TC 20/SC 16, please contact Mr. Andy Dryden, ISO Central Secretariat at dryden@iso.org. For more information, please see the attached ISO/TC 20/SC 16 Resolutions from the December 2015 plenary meeting.