BaBee: Agilicious Documentation for Autonomous Flying

1. **Components List**
   Main Compute Unit: Nvidia Jetson Xavier NX
   Breakout board: A203 Carrier board for Jetson Nano/Xavier NX V2
   Flight Controller: SpeedyBee F7 V3 FC
   Electronic Speed Controller: SpeedyBee BL32 50A 4-in-1 ESC
   Radio Receiver: FS-X6B
   Radio Transmitter: FS-16X
   Main Plate: ?
   Motors: ?
   Propellers: ?
   Battery: Tattu R-Line V3.0 2000mAh 4S 120C LiPo Battery

2. **Firmware List**
   To follow our recommended process, you will need the following firmware:
   a. A *Base Computer* running Ubuntu 20.04, with installed:
      i. Motive (Mocap software)
      ii. Betaflight (FC software - we recommend using a stable release)
      iii. ROS
   b. A *Babee Computer* running Ubuntu 20.04, with installed:
      i. ROS

3. **Mechanical Assembly**
   The mechanical assembly of the quadrotor's frame (SpeedyBee Frame V2) can be done following this tutorial:
   https://youtu.be/hWUoH5cyySo?si=n4RCJ04sYB27ETVS.

4. **Flight Controller (FC) Electronic Assembly**
   The electronic assembly of the flight controller (SV-F7V3-BL32-50A) can be done following the tutorials below:
   https://youtu.be/VfNIDSZoTvc?si=3v8P6FFKEZn0rWTS
   https://youtu.be/lw5rZoBxtzk?si=9PThKLTMh40VmC07
   https://youtu.be/UVIMAifJjvE?si=jcgfB9_tG2y0-G_0

5. **(Optional) Betfalight Software General Tutorials**
   For those unused to Betaflight, we recommend watching the following playlist/serie of videos, which explain in detail every aspect of the software and its configurations:
   https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLwoDb7WF6c8nT4jjsE4VENEmwu9x8zDiE&si=eUgScTlpqcQ8FIik.

6. **Flashing Jetson Xavier NX**
   In order to flash Jetson Xavier NX on an A203 Carrier Board, you may want to follow the official instructions from the following link:

https://wiki.seeedstudio.com/reComputer_A203_Flash_System/#flashing-jetpack-os-via-command-line.

Note: We **highly recommend not** to flash using Nvidia's SDK Manager. Instead, we suggest using the **command line** installation steps from the above link.

Jetson Linux Version: "35.5.0 >"
JetPack version: "5.0.2"

7. (Optional) Betaflight Software for Remote Control

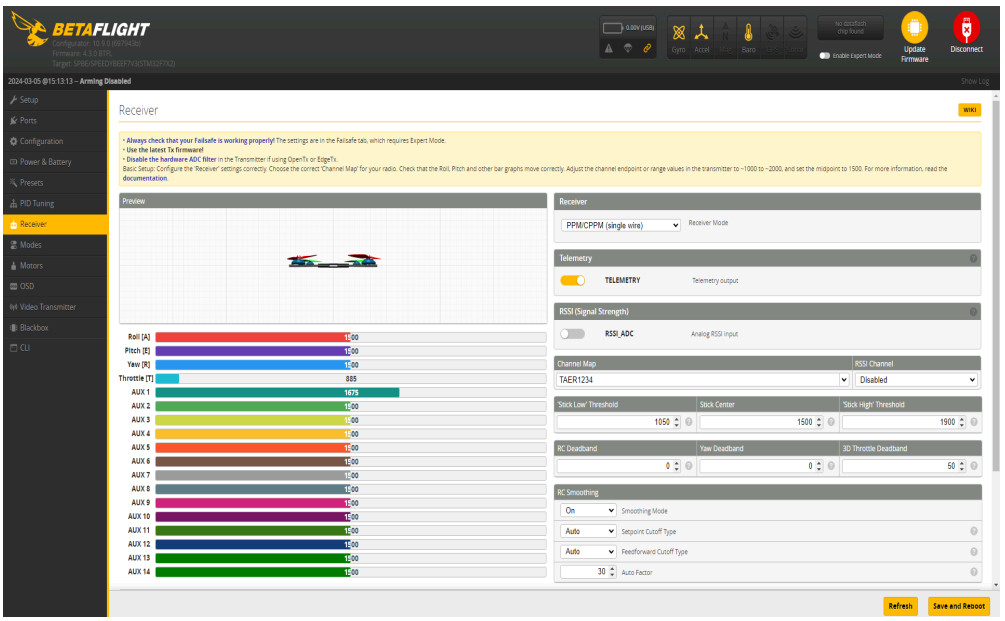
a. Reminder that we use the *Remote Controller* **FS-I6X Transmitter**, and *Receiver* **FS-X6B**, where the below schematic applies:

Remote Controller ——————————>	Flight Controller
GND	*G*
5V	*4V5*
PPM	*R2*

Note that while *PPM* is working fine, *iBUS* is not recommended.

b. The RC needs to be configured separately to unable arming on RC's end. For that, you can follow: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lyqV5KMwK4I.

c. Then, you must allow for communication between RC and FC. To do so, setup Betaflight's receiver configuration as in the below image:



d. Finally, you may want to set up the **Angle** and **Horizon** mode under the *Modes* tab of Betaflight.

8. Hardware Connections

a. SBUS has been used to connect FC (flight controller) and SBC (single board computer). Two **distinct** RX-TX pairs will be required on FC and SBC (you must not use the same X for RX/TX pairs).
b. Solder the FC R2 and connect it to SBC USB-to-TTL cable on RX (note that the USB-to-TTL cable inverts RX and TX, therefore we connect R2 to USB_RX).
c. Solder the FC T3 and connect it to SBC GPIO RX (UART_1; Pin 10, W8).
d. Connect FC GND to SBC GPIO GND (Pin 6, W8).

9. Betaflight Software for Autonomous Flight

a. Flashing (tuto - https://youtu.be/LkBWRiEGKTI?si=Y_OdhbqLRy0kyudE)

- Go to “Firmware Flasher”
- Press “Auto Detect” to choose your flight controller. If it does not auto-detect, DO NOT FLASH and do research to find out what the correct target is.
- We recommend flashing on firmware 4.3.0.
- First, click “save backup”. The FC comes with some customisation on it. If in future, all the data is erased, your FC will go to default settings, which is not what we want.
- Load firmware online
- Flash Firmware
- Now on the top right, the menu should change to DFU mode. If it does not appear automatically, watch the video above.
- After flashing, press connect on the top right.
- Press “Apply Custom Defaults”
- Press “Connect “ again
- Betaflight might give some warnings now. Just follow the steps given.

NOTE: NEVER click “Reset settings” button in the “Setup” tab. This will reset the manufacturer’s customisation. This is not what you may want.

b. Calibration

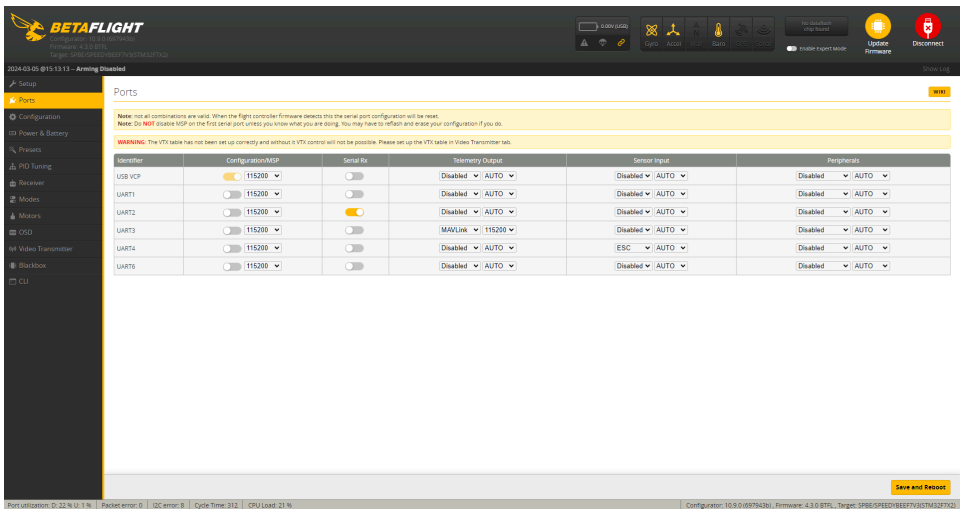
In the *Setup* tab of Betaflight, click *‘Calibrate Accelerometer’* and follow the given instructions.

c. Ports (tutorial - https://youtu.be/UDksru4JWnE?si=eHp38Ue3zo30OkMd)

Note that in each row, you can toggle at most one of the available settings (Configuration/MSP; Serial RX, Telemetry Output; Sensor Input; Peripherals). We set the following:

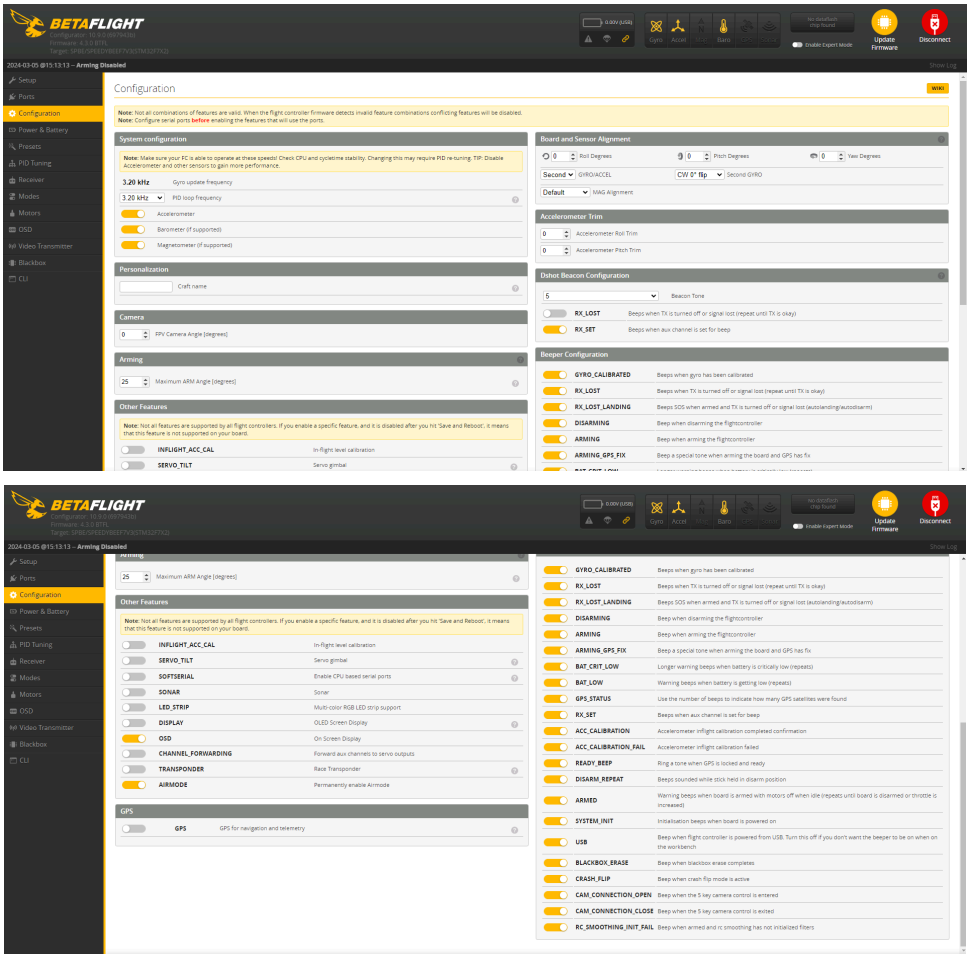
i. *USB VCP* is by default set to **MSP** and should never be touched unless you know what you are doing. This would disable access to FC from USB-C connection and may require resetting the FC completely.
ii. UART2’s *Serial RX* to **ON** as R2 is used on the FC as a serial receiver.

iii. UART3's *Telemetry Output* to **MAVLink** (communication protocol used by Mavros) with *baud rate* as **115200**.
iv. UART4's *Sensor Input* to **ESC** to allow communication from FC to ESC.



d. Configuration (https://youtu.be/eY_H6qtpU18?si=YzRFTZ9OLYa4ZBWl)
Our configuration tab is left (nearly) as default. A few minor changes have be done, such as the following:

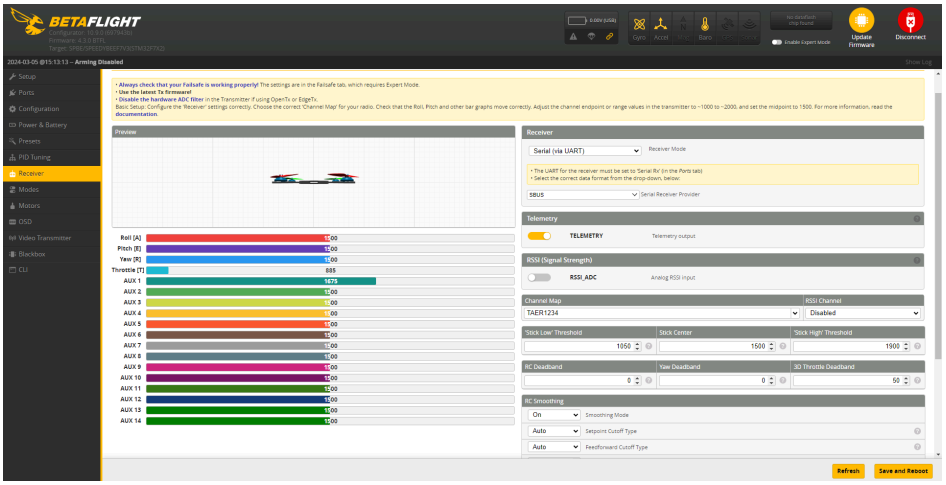
i. *RX_LOST* in *Dshot Beacon Configuration* may be set to **ON/OFF** based on your preference. Enabling this will enable a beeping sound when your FC does not receive any signal from a controller while armed. We have disabled this setting for convenience during testing.
ii. *Beacon Tone* simply indicates which beeping sound you wish to use and is not important.



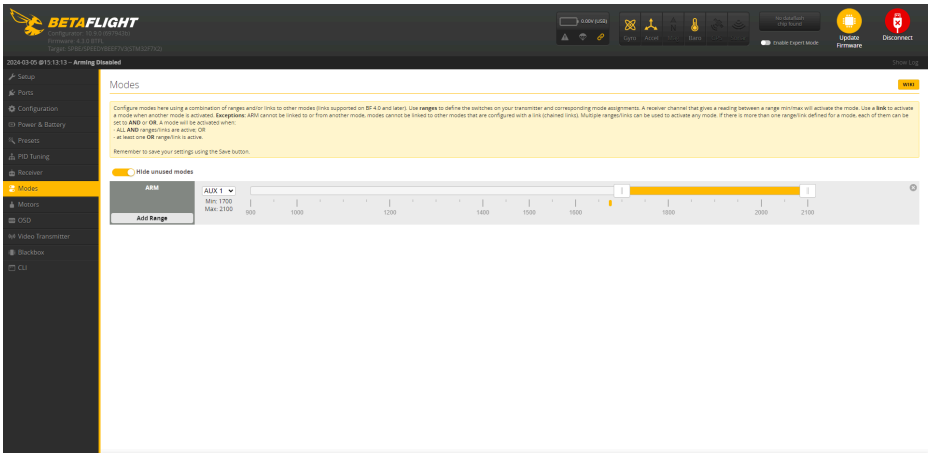
e. **Power&Battery (https://youtu.be/Je6eFQKbPBw?si=ZXjQsn5YEWhgAprC)**
All parameters are left as default here. (Should we calibrate the battery? forgot)

f. **Receiver (https://youtu.be/vEDdk5w6YS4?si=6Z9CoixKklVePBiz)**
Note that values in the *Preview* (left) tab might be different from one configuration to another. However, you must set the following:

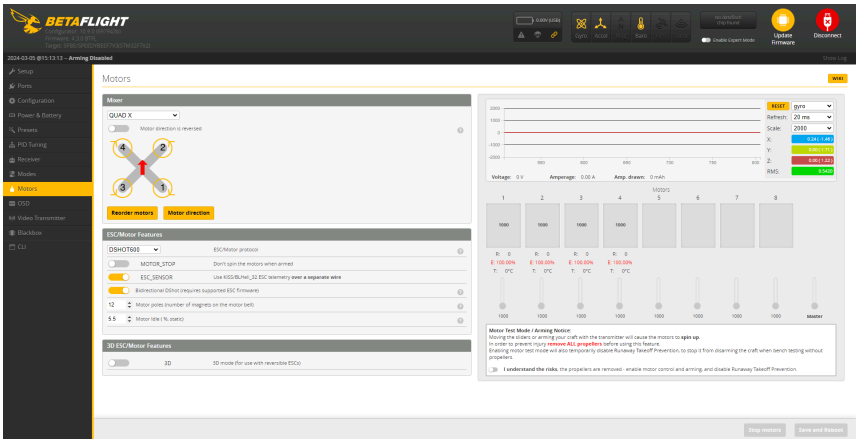
   i. *Receiver Mode* is set to **Serial (via UART)** to allow serial communication via UARTs.
   ii. *Serial Receiver Provider* is set to **SBUS** as Agilicious uses SBUS to communicate.
   iii. *Telemetry* should be set **ON** to allow telemetry transmission from FC.
   iv. *Channel Map* is set to **TAER1234** as required by Agilicious.



g. **Modes (https://youtu.be/kDAotpevszs?si=w6etbl4qXF82e5Yy)**
   i. We bind **ARMing** to **AUX1** and set the enabling range from *1700 to 2100*. This will allow Agilicious to arm the quadrotor. When first launching autonomous flying from Agilicious, you will observe **AUX1** going to *1000* (unarmed). Then, when clicking '*Arm'* in the software, the value will rise to *2000* and rotors will start spinning (armed).
   ii. Other modes can be configured here such as flying modes, beep signals…



h. **Motors (https://youtu.be/1WYDsiYJGoQ?si=QNzsBX40A-W6r9j-)**
   i. We recommend leaving *ESC_SENSOR* **ON**, although this may not affect autonomous flying.
   ii. We set *Bidirectional DShot* to **ON** to allow bidirectional communication between the FC and ESC. That is to send commands from FC to ESC (such as Motor Commands) and information signals from ESC to FC (such as Battery Voltage).
   iii. Then, you should set *ESC/Motor Protocol* to **DSHOT600**.
   iv. The value of *Motor Poles* depends on the number of magnets in each motor, our motors have **12** magnets each.
   v. You must configure your motors in the *Motors* section, such as setting up *spacial configuration* (here QuadX), *motor indexing* and *spinning directions*.



i. **CLI Tab**

The CLI is the command line dedicated to our FC configuration. To cope with Agilicious's setup, we must import their recommended internal configurations to our FC. To do so, we paste the below commands in our CLI. **We recommend saving your current configuration, which will be lost after importing Agilicious's parameters.**

set serialrx_provider = SBUS
set serialrx_inverted = ON

map TAER1234

profile 0

 # profile 0
set profile_name = -
set dyn_lpf_dterm_min_hz = 70
set dyn_lpf_dterm_max_hz = 170
set dyn_lpf_dterm_curve_expo = 5
set dterm_lowpass_type = PT1
set dterm_lowpass_hz = 150
set dterm_lowpass2_type = PT1
set dterm_lowpass2_hz = 150
set dterm_notch_hz = 0
set dterm_notch_cutoff = 0
set vbat_pid_gain = OFF
set vbat_sag_compensation = 0
set pid_at_min_throttle = ON
set anti_gravity_mode = SMOOTH
set anti_gravity_threshold = 250
set anti_gravity_gain = 1000
set feedforward_transition = 0
set acc_limit_yaw = 0
set acc_limit = 0
set crash_dthreshold = 50
set crash_gthreshold = 400
set crash_setpoint_threshold = 350
set crash_time = 500
set crash_delay = 0
set crash_recovery_angle = 10
set crash_recovery_rate = 100
set crash_limit_yaw = 200
set crash_recovery = OFF
set iterm_rotation = OFF
set iterm_relax = OFF
set iterm_relax_type = SETPOINT
set iterm_relax_cutoff = 15
set iterm_windup = 100
set iterm_limit = 400
set pidsum_limit = 500
set pidsum_limit_yaw = 400
set yaw_lowpass_hz = 0
set throttle_boost = 0
set throttle_boost_cutoff = 15
set acro_trainer_angle_limit = 20
set acro_trainer_lookahead_ms = 50
set acro_trainer_debug_axis = ROLL
set acro_trainer_gain = 75
set p_pitch = 40
set i_pitch = 80
set d_pitch = 20
set f_pitch = 0
set p_roll = 40
set i_roll = 80
set d_roll = 20
set f_roll = 0
set p_yaw = 30
set i_yaw = 60
set d_yaw = 0
set f_yaw = 0
set angle_level_strength = 50
set horizon_level_strength = 50
set horizon_transition = 75
set level_limit = 55
set horizon_tilt_effect = 75
set horizon_tilt_expert_mode = OFF
set abs_control_gain = 0
set abs_control_limit = 90
set abs_control_error_limit = 20
set abs_control_cutoff = 11
set use_integrated_yaw = OFF
set integrated_yaw_relax = 200
set d_min_roll = 0
set d_min_pitch = 0
set d_min_yaw = 0
set d_min_boost_gain = 27
set d_min_advance = 20
set motor_output_limit = 100
set auto_profile_cell_count = 0
set launch_control_mode = NORMAL
set launch_trigger_allow_reset = ON
set launch_trigger_throttle_percent = 20
set launch_angle_limit = 0
set launch_control_gain = 40
set ff_interpolate_sp = AVERAGED_2
set ff_spike_limit = 60
set ff_max_rate_limit = 100
set ff_smooth_factor = 37
set ff_boost = 15
set idle_min_rpm = 0
set idle_adjustment_speed = 50
set idle_p = 50
set idle_pid_limit = 200
set idle_max_increase = 150
set level_race_mode = OFF

rateprofile 0

 # rateprofile 0
set rateprofile_name = -
set thr_mid = 50
set thr_expo = 0
set rates_type = BETAFLIGHT
set roll_rc_rate = 220
set pitch_rc_rate = 220
set yaw_rc_rate = 204
set roll_expo = 0
set pitch_expo = 0
set yaw_expo = 0
set roll_srate = 0
set pitch_srate = 0
set yaw_srate = 0
set tpa_rate = 0
set tpa_breakpoint = 2000
set tpa_mode = D
set throttle_limit_type = OFF
set throttle_limit_percent = 100
set roll_rate_limit = 1998
set pitch_rate_limit = 1998
set yaw_rate_limit = 1998
save

10. Mocap Setup

Open Motive App
Make sure no marker are detected
Click “Start Wanding”
Do the physical calibration
When done click “Calculate”
And apply the result if “Excellent/Exceptional”
Set up the ground (initial coordinate)
Select the ground on Motive
Click “Set ground plane”
Click “Export”

Go to “View” > “Data Streaming Pane” > “Streaming” > “Show Advanced” (if not automatic)
Set “Up Axis” to “Z Up”
Enable “VRPN” transmission/streaming

In “Streaming” > “Local Interface” select an IP (whichever you want, this will be used as the *server* address later)

11. Agilicious Installation

First, we create two copies of the Agilicious repository. One should be for your local/base/host computer and the other will be on your SBC.
Use the below commands to create/clone the clean copies on each computer:

```
mkdir catkin_ws/src
cd catkin_ws/src
git clone https://github.com/catkin/catkin_simple
git clone https://github.com/ethz-asl/mav_comm.git
git clone git@github.com:uzh-rpg/agilicious.git
catkin build
```

12. Demonstration

You should now be ready to run the below demonstration on the **Tracking Arena**.
Please note that, in the demonstration, we refer to the BSC as *Babee*.

Demonstration for **Tracking Arena**:

1) **Agilicious codebase configuration:**

   a) On Babee:

- In *onboard_pilot_betaflight.yaml* change *quadrotor* to *kingfisher*, if not by default.
- In the file responsible for sending commands from NX->FC (here, *sbus.yaml*), change the TTY address to the one of the TX pin of the SBC (here, */dev/ttyUSB0*).
- In the file responsible for receiving telemetry data from FC->NX (here, *betaflight.launch*), change the TTY address to the one of the RX pin of the SBC (here, */dev/ttyTHS0*).

   b) On Base Computer:

- In *arena_basecomputer_onboard.launch* change the *server* address to the one of your Mocap system (for us, 10.206.0.244).
  By default, this will be: <param name="server" value="192.168.200.119"/>.

2) **Setup before Launching:**
   Before starting this setup, you must decide on which, Base Computer (BC) or Babee, you wish to set as your *MASTER*. This doesn't matter and can be either. We use BC.

   a) On Base Computer:

- Run the following commands in your BC terminal:
  ```
  cd catkin_ws/src/agilicious_internal/agiros/agiros/launch/tracking_arena
  source /opt/ros/noetic/setup.bash
  source ~/catkin_ws/devel/setup.bash
  export ROS_MASTER_URI=http://<MASTER_IP>:11311
  export ROS_IP=<BC_IP>
  ```

   b) On Babee:

- Run the following commands in your Babee terminal:
  ```
  ssh@<Babee_IP>
  source /opt/ros/noetic/setup.bash
  source ~/catkin_ws/devel/setup.bash
  export ROS_MASTER_URI=http://<MASTER_IP>:11311
  export ROS_IP=<Babee_IP>
  sudo systemctl stop serial-getty@ttyTHS0.service serial-getty@ttyUSB0.service
  sudo chmod a+rw /dev/ttyTHS* /dev/ttyUSB*
  sudo usermod -a -G dialout $USER
  ```

3) **Launching:**

   a) On Base Computer:

- Launch the following file to start Autonomous flying:
  ```
  roslaunch arena_base_computer_onboard.launch quad_name:=”kingfisher”
  ```

- This file will run 3 nodes:
  1. A **GUI** (to Connect, Arm and Hover) - This GUI is an alternative to RC.
  2. A **VRPN Client** (vrpn_client_ros) to get odometry data from the mocap.
  3. A **Rviz** instance to visualize everything.

b) <u>On Babee:</u>

- Launch the following file to start Autonomous flying:
  roslaunch arena_quadrotor_onboard_betaflight.launch quad_name:='kingfisher'
- This file will run 2 nodes:
  1. A **Mavros** (betaflight) instance.
  2. A **Controller** - which is either an *MPC* or *PID,* based on what is set in your configuration file in Agilicious codebase. By default *Tracking Arena* uses **MPC**.

c) <u>On the GUI (from Base Computer):</u>

- If everything has been set up properly, when pressing *Connect* you should now see the *Battery Voltage* (indicating that FC-to-NX communication is working) and *Odometry Data* (indicating that data was successfully read from the Mocap system). Note that the *Battery Voltage* is now coming from the real hardware, so you must make sure that this value is correct (**tips**: if it is 15.5V, the telemetry communication probably failed).
- When clicking *Arm* motors should now be rotating (indicating that NX-to-FC communication is also working).
- When clicking Start, the motors should start spinning rapidly.
  Important: Make sure that the Stop button works before using the quadrotor with propellers on.