

INDUSTRY FACTS

STATE
COMMITMENT
FOR NEW
INFRASTRUCTURE
**\$33
MILLION**

**\$77
MILLION**
TOTAL
INVESTMENT BY
THE STATE OF
NORTH
DAKOTA

THE
NATION'S FIRST
**BVLOS
SYSTEM**
VANTIS

1ST
UAV
TRANSATLANTIC
FLIGHT

NORTH DAKOTA UNMANNED AIR SYSTEMS (UAS): THE NEXT GENERATION

North Dakota's unmanned systems sector continues to lead the nation in supporting the agricultural and energy industries, commercializing intellectual property and operationalizing federal requirements. To continue this growth and momentum, North Dakota must continue to invest in growing its Beyond Visual Line of Sight (BVLOS) network, support robust operations at the Northern Plains UAS Test Site (NPUASTS) and expand infrastructure at the Grand Sky UAS Park to support highly diverse and well-paying jobs as well as the national security mission.

GRAND SKY: THE NATION'S FIRST PRIVATE UAS PARK


Grand Sky, the nation's first UAS business and aviation park, is home for flight testing, UAS operations and research and development. Grand Sky offers build-to-suit locations and temporary facilities for commercial UAS development and testing, as well as defense-related operations support and has attracted more than \$100 million in private investment. Grand Sky offers access to secure defense networks, dark fiber, a 12,351-foot runway, uncongested airspace with less than 10 operations daily and more than 330 days of flying weather annually. Testing operations are supported with electronics component distributors, metal fabrication, 3D printing and equipment support for the most demanding test requirements. Grand Sky partners like the Northern Plains UAS Test Site can support airspace needs. Grand Sky is home to one of the nation's first commercial BVLOS system.


VANTIS


North Dakota leads in attracting companies and federal agencies to operationalize, commercialize and grow this sector by leveraging historic investments, utilizing existing resources, subject matter expertise and infrastructure to continue the growth trajectory, commercialization of new technologies, and well-paying jobs. North Dakota is using VANTIS and its subject matter experts at the test site on behalf of NASA, DoD, CBP and private industry. The Bakken capability will be deployed by Spring 2021. Commerce is recruiting new industries to assist in energy production and supporting small communities across the state. Autonomous development and the attraction of private equity throughout the agricultural sector continues at a rapid clip as well, including new start up activity from Plug and Play.

KEY NORTH DAKOTA GROWTH

 **\$400 million**
in private sector
investment.

 **Almost 50 UAS**
companies call North
Dakota home.

 **Over 1,000 people**
employed by the
industry.

 **Federal partners**
include DoD, CBP and
FAA.

INDUSTRY CLUSTERS

The North Dakota UAS entrepreneur cluster is larger than any other accelerator, incubator or entrepreneur center in the nation.

Almost all UAS companies operate in North Dakota, including:

- Northrop Grumman
- General Atomics
- Collins Aerospace
- L3 Harris Technologies
- Thales USA
- SkySkopes
- ISight RPV Services
- Botlink

SUCCESSES

- Participation in the FAA's BEYOND program which continues the partnership that was started through the UAS Integration Pilot Program
- Northrop Grumman endurance testing
- Department of Homeland Security Northern Border Airspace Domain Awareness Test Bed
- Four contracts awarded to support the United States Air Force Agility Prime program

PREMIER TEST SITE ADVANTAGES

- Strong industry support
- Open terrain
- Robust energy and agriculture industry clusters
- Broad infrastructure, including Grand Sky Business Park and Northern Plains Test Site
- Research through UND Research Institute for Autonomous Systems
- History and culture of aviation safety
- Uncongested airspace
- Climate diversity
- Unique testing locations and scenarios

