

# Virginia Unmanned Stakeholder Update

## Welcome

### CIT's Unmanned Systems Center Hosts Successful UXS Stakeholder Meeting in Richmond

The first **Commonwealth Unmanned Systems Stakeholder Meeting** was held on January 29th at the Richmond Main Street Station. The industry leadership gathering represented Land, Air, Sea, and Space. They were clear in their resolve to have Virginia lead this innovative industry into a stronger future with job creation and industry exploration. The event, hosted by The Virginia Unmanned Systems Center at CIT, was co-sponsored by the Virginia Aerospace Business Association, AUVSI Chapters from Ridge and Valley, Hampton Roads, DC Capital Region, AUVSI National HQ, Drone Responders, NVTC, VEDP, and WIRA.

The next Stakeholder event will be held in July of this year. Watch for the official event announcement.



More than 150 unmanned systems stakeholders gathered in Richmond, VA to share their successes, insights, and future plans for the commonwealth.

## In Session



### UXS Initiatives and Legislation

In the 2020 Session of the General Assembly, five bills were introduced this would some state or local regulation of unmanned aerial systems. With a week remaining in the Session, only one bill is still alive - Delegate David Bulova's **HB742** which would regulate the takeoff or landing of unmanned aerial systems on property owned by the political subdivision. Delegate Bulova was very helpful in working with industry, associations, and local government to amend the original bill to ensure that it did not unnecessarily restrict the operation of commercial drones in Virginia. Additionally, in an effort to eliminate the possibility of having a patchwork of different local regulatory policies across the Commonwealth, the bill directs Virginia's Department of Aviation to develop rules and regulations specific to take-offs and landings in consultation with representatives of the unmanned aircraft system industry, localities, and other stakeholders. The bill has a delayed effective date of January 1, 2021. This bill incorporates **HB 311** and **HB 1227**. [Click here for more information about current legislation.](#)



March 25, 2020

Every day, members of Congress work on legislation that can either boost or hinder the advancement and deployment of unmanned and autonomous systems. The annual AUVSI Hill Day is an opportunity for the entire industry to come together and declare, with one unified voice, how unmanned technology is making a positive impact on local communities and economies across the country. Join us at Hill Day and take advantage of the opportunity to educate your lawmakers and advocate for your business. Amplify our voice and help advance all things unmanned! **MORE...**

**“The Future of Unmanned Systems in Virginia is Bright.”**

-Gov. Ralph Northam

### Did You Know?

David E. Bowles, former director of NASA's Langley Research Center, is now the Executive Director **Virginia Institute for Spaceflight and Autonomy (VISA)**.

VISA is positioned to grow the entrepreneurial ecosystems for space flight and autonomy. **MORE...**

## Opportunities



### Where Can I Find Funding for my Start-Up or Early Stage Company?

**The Center for Innovative Technology (CIT)** grows and diversifies Virginia's economy by investing in and accelerating innovation, commercialization, entrepreneurship and broadband availability.

CIT accelerates early commercialization & funding support for Virginia innovations, entrepreneurs, startups & market development initiatives by concentrating on the early commercialization and seed funding stages of innovation. This support helps innovators and tech entrepreneurs launch and grow new companies, create high paying jobs and accelerate economic growth throughout the entire state of Virginia. The growth of the unmanned systems industry is also now benefiting from these funding opportunities. **CONT...**

**“Virginia is #1 State for Unmanned Aerial Systems Business” -Business Facilities Magazine**

**Here is a Quick Overview of Funding Opportunities:**

**CIT CIT GAP Funds:**

CIT GAP Funds place equity investments in Virginia-based tech companies. Since its inception, GAP has invested in over 223 new companies.

**CIT Virginia Founders Fund (VFF):**

The VFF provides seed funding to underrepresented entrepreneurs, targeting rural areas, and minority, women and veteran-owned startup initiatives.

**CIT SBIR / STTR Training:**

CIT's Federal Funding Assistance Program assists small technology businesses to learn

how to apply for and win government contracts through the federal Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) programs. CIT is one of 24 grantees of SBA's Federal and State Technology (FAST) Partnership Program.

**CIT Commonwealth Research Commercialization Fund (CRCF):**

CRCF supports commercialization of high-potential technologies at Virginia's public and private institutions of higher education, technology companies, federal labs, and nonprofit research organizations.

**Commonwealth Center of Innovation for Autonomous Systems (C2IAS):**

Nearly \$1.5 million in grant funding has been awarded from the Virginia Research Investment Fund to support the launch of C2IAS which is a collaborative research center led by Virginia Tech with Old Dominion University as its partner. The focus of C2IAS is not on “research” as such, but on “technology transition,” which promises results (jobs and wealth in Virginia) rather than research publications.

**Virginia Company Profile**



**HUSH Aerospace LLC.** was founded in 2019 as a Virginia Limited Liability Corporation. Located in Virginia Beach, VA.

Featuring a 100k square foot facility that houses an indoor flight test range, HUSH Aerospace is a small Virginia company with less than ten (10) full-time employees. They specialize in product design, prototyping, analysis, and manufacturing of Small Unmanned Aerial Systems (sUAS) for achieving multi-modal mission capability across air and water.

*"The potential for Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) to perform transformative military and civil missions which simply couldn't be performed with existing platforms. To make these missions a success you need a team like ours that is willing to push the bounds of flight in every aspect!" **MORE...***



Gov. Ralph Northam, The Virginia Pavilion, AUVSI Chicago, 2019

**XPONENTIAL 2020, Boston**

**The Virginia Pavilion** will be a featured location at AUVSI's Xponential 2020 in Boston, Massachusetts. The Conference, held at the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center, is from May 4–7, 2020. Companies participating in this year's Virginia Pavilion include CIT, NASA, Virginia Tech's Mid-Atlantic Aviation Partnership(MAAP), WING, Verizon, Dominion Power, Virginia Space, HUSH Aerospace, and many others.

The Virginia Pavilion will also feature special guests from the Commonwealth who are committed to the advancement and innovation of unmanned systems.

Plan now to attend AUVSI Boston and Visit the Virginia Pavilion.

Contact: Tracy.Tynan@cit.org for more information. **MORE...**

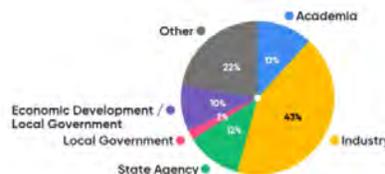
**Your Opinion Matters**

During the recent **Unmanned Systems Stakeholder Meeting** in Richmond, VA, Mentimeter technology was featured in an effort to allow participants an opportunity to confidentially express their opinions about UXS issues including unmanned systems training, legislation, education, taxation and industry growth.

The results for the event polling is being made available to all unmanned systems stakeholders.

If you would like to see the questions featured and the results of our recent poll please **click here**.

**What Industry Do You Represent?**



**This issue's featured question: Is State Registration or Certification of UAS's Needed?**

**(Click this Link to anonymously respond.)**

**\*LIVE Voting Closes on March 17.**



**Need a Speaker? Contact Us!**

The mission for the Virginia Unmanned Systems Center Speakers Bureau is to advance knowledge and understanding about unmanned systems; Land, Air, Sea, and Space.

If you would like to be a part of this inspiring group or need an *industry expert speaker* please contact [Lynn.McDaniel@cit.org](mailto:Lynn.McDaniel@cit.org).

**UXS Calendar & Upcoming Events**

- March 10–12** *Urban Air Mobility Ecosystem Working Groups Kickoff Workshop*
- March 16–17** *Preparing the Drone Workforce Conference*
- March 25** *AUVSI Hill Day*
- March 30–April 3** *International Wireless Communications Expo*
- April 2** *CIT Unmanned Systems Center Advisory Board Meeting*
- May 4–6** *AUVSI XPONENTIAL 2020*
- June 4** *Richmond Technology Luncheon*