



Platform Unmanned Cargo Aircraft (PUCA) input for:

Hearing#2: Enhancing UAS services, including the SME dimension

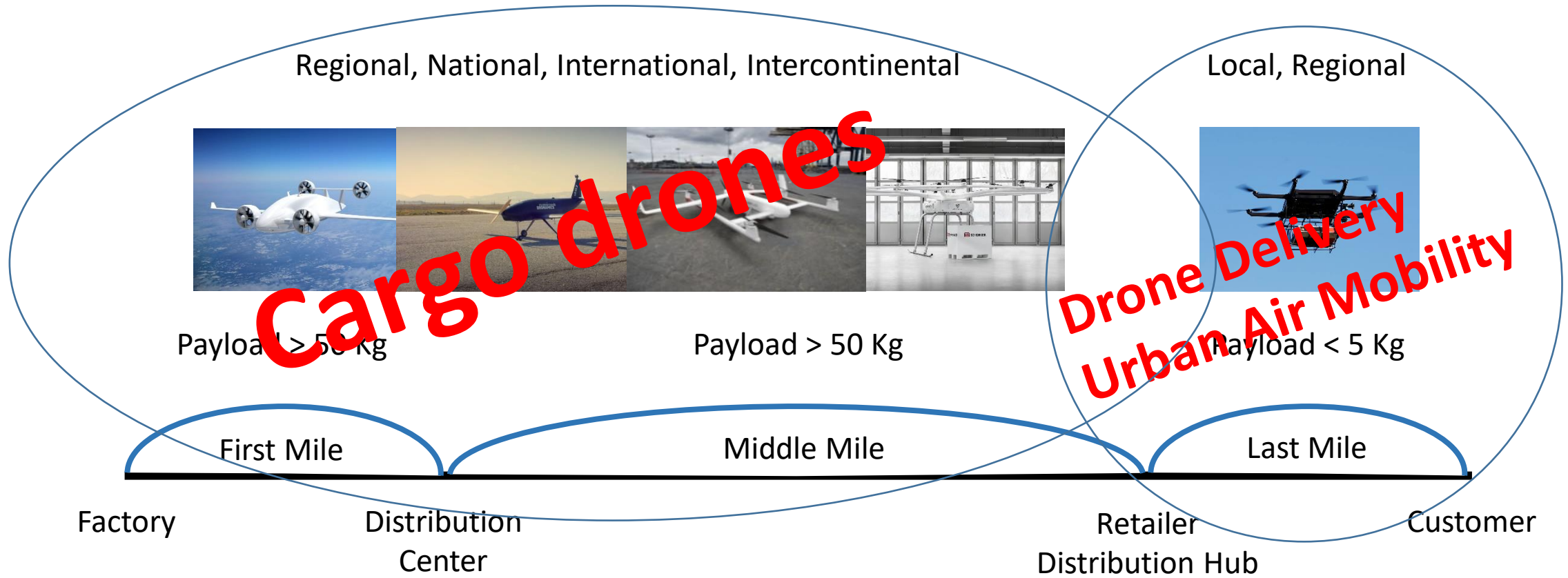
PUCA

Platform Unmanned Cargo Aircraft (PUCA)



- Open, non-profit association of members aiming to support development and deployment of Unmanned Cargo Aircraft (UCA)
- Drive consistent, focused and concise approach to market education to highlight benefits, use cases and UCA applications,
- Business market analysis and development of a favourable environment for deployments at short/medium term from first mile to middle/last mile of small to large cargo in Europe and beyond
- Composed of an eco-system covering all aspects of UCA market: logistics, aviation and drone industry, systems integration, system suppliers, IT services, infrastructure to venture capital, academia and research centres, and regulatory organisations.

PUCA The market



Question 1

How can the innovative capacity of the sector, including SMEs be best utilised?
What can be done to support SMEs in this process?



- Create a dedicated Unmanned Cargo Aircraft working (UCA) Group at EC level involving players from the whole drone value chain (including non-aviation SMEs and end-users), not limited to regulatory aspects
- Recognize the importance of IT in all aspects and create bridges with new technology developers/providers
- Improve understanding of market demand and identify what is missing for drones to innovate and flourish (not only manufacturer-centered)
- Bring SMEs being proactively participating in development of EU policies / roadmaps instead of just being reactionary
- Design scaleboxes such that after an SME has success e.g a successful pilot/operating the next step is already in place alongside funding
- Consider funding requirements of non-funded SMEs having difficulties to be funded under current processes. Sufficient funding may be in place but there is the next tier that need supporting to develop a marketplace
- Research alternative mechanisms of sharing data to best accelerate the sector and prohibit silos based around operational safety cases
- Consider a confidential market study that evaluates liquidity of market sector players beyond manufacturers as listed above to identify weaknesses in the supply chain

Question 2

Considering that stakeholders, such as drone service providers, local authorities, infrastructure managers, as well as companies on the demand side, must work together, what are effective mechanisms to (further) establish this?



- Create coalitions / consortiums and involve also services companies / IT in these groups
- Need public private partnerships at high level, with publicly managed (national/EU authority level) open access platforms
- Look similar approaches than UAM Konnect (which is shortly to be an open access platform)
- Establish data sharing mechanisms using equivalents such as MOBI (Mobility Open Blockchain Initiative)
- Use of EIB (European Investment Bank) via the European Drone Advisory Hub - drones and UCA are not considered as transport infrastructure and this perception → needs for changes
- The development of clusters that are not currently perceived as supply chain i.e. for UCA, Hydrogen Production, E-factories and how local instances can be sited

Question 3

Should there be more specific regulatory provisions addressing SMEs needs related to drone operations, in particular in the Open Category?



- Add the Cargo / Logistics variable in the A1, A2, A3 options
- Development of an Operational Safety Case template that operators can follow which will give them privileges, instead on a case by case basis
- Akin to a driver's licence, EU recognition of a qualification without having to perform differences training in the 3rd party country
- Accelerate airworthiness testing of platforms for future suitability for new regulations
- Extend legacy rights of drones beyond the current expiry dates
- Embed insurance within each operator qualification, or a premium that allows the operator to select at least a basic package, this ensures coverage is always available
- Use industry and research to support development of regulatory provisions and demonstrate concepts, safety levels and feasibility/relevance of choices made.

Contact



Contact:

Gilles Fartek, gilles@platformuca.org

Lionel Platteuw, lionel@platformuca.org

Chairman: Pieter Hermans, pieter@platformuca.org

www.platformuca.org

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/platform-unmanned-cargo-aircraft/>

<https://twitter.com/platformuca/>