

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FAA Grants Trimble's UX5 Commercial UAS Exemption

CENTENNIAL, Colorado, 18 December 2014 – CompassData, a worldwide provider of geospatial data and services, is excited about the announcement that the FAA has granted five regulatory exemptions for unmanned aircraft system (UAS) commercial operations. Under Section 333 of the 2012 FAA Modernization and Reform Act (FMRA), the exemptions have been granted to four companies representing several industries that promise to benefit from UAS technology.

Trimble Navigation Limited, which manufactures the UX5 drone that CompassData owns and utilizes under current regulations for aerial surveys, is one of the commercial entities that could benefit from this exemption. The exemption should help to expedite the certificate of authorization (COA) application process by allowing for pre-approval of unmanned aircraft systems such as the UX5.

“The process of acquiring a certificate of authorization from the FAA, which is required to fly legally within US airspace, can be cumbersome and time consuming. This exemption should help companies that utilize the Trimble UX5, like CompassData, accelerate this process and allow us to get into the field in a timely manner. This will benefit our customers,” said Jeff Southard, Senior Project Manager at CompassData. CompassData stresses that the Trimble exemption does not declare that future UX5 commercial operations are exempt from the COA process, but that the process may be accelerated as a result of the FAA exemption of the Trimble UX5.

CompassData announced the purchase of their first unmanned aircraft system (UAS), the Trimble UX5, in early 2014. They are one of just a handful of US based companies with UX5 experience. The UX5 was selected because of CompassData's and affiliated Trimble distributor CompassTool's long history and also because it has received excellent reviews. The UX5, which comes with a custom camera system, was engineered specifically for mapping and surveying professionals who require highly accurate deliverables. In addition, it has a robust airframe and is easy to operate.

CompassData now has three Trimble certified remote pilots, with many hours of flight experience, prepared to conduct flight operations for custom aerial imagery collection projects. The “sky's the limit” with potential applications: utility mapping, oil and gas fields, crop analysis, terrain modeling, volume calculations, mine mapping, tree height calculations, disaster relief, wildfire monitoring, livestock management, wildlife management and ranch mapping to mention a few. If your project requires high resolution aerial imagery, please contact CompassData.

About CompassData

Established in 1994, CompassData specializes in providing ground control points (GCPs), remotely sensed imagery, and QA/QC services and software. With 31,000 archived GCPs, the CompassData archive is the largest commercially offered database of photo-identifiable GCPs in the world available for off-the-shelf delivery. CompassData performs custom ground control collection, capturing and delivering points of guaranteed quality anywhere in the world within two to six weeks of order placement. FAA DO200A-certified GCPs and orthoimagery are used to support aviation mapping projects, with over 450 airports in the archive (and growing daily) available for off-the-shelf delivery. GCPs are used extensively to orthorectify or correct aerial, satellite and UAS imagery as well as LiDAR data. CompassV&V software and CompassData GCPs are utilized to verify the accuracy of imagery, radar (IFSAR), LiDAR and GIS data sets. Remote sensing satellite operators also rely on GCPs to calibrate newly deployed sensors.

For more information, contact Jeff Southard at 303-627-4058 or by email at imagery@compassdatainc.com or www.compassdatainc.com.

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