

Westminster eForum policy conference:

Next steps for the UK drone industry - policy, regulation, investment, growth and innovation

Timing: Morning, Monday, 31st March 2025

Taking Place Online



WESTMINSTER
eFORUM

Agenda subject to change

- 8.30 Registration
- 9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Simon Masters, Deputy Challenge Director, Future Flight, Innovate UK
- 9.05 **Key considerations for regulation and the way forward for scaling up the unmanned aircraft sector**
Sophie O'Sullivan, Director, Future Flight Programme, Civil Aviation Authority
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.35 **Priorities for strengthening the relationship between regulation and the UK drone industry**
strategies for streamlining regulation while maintaining safety | assessing the role of the Regulatory Innovation Office | discussing the CAA's SORA update and Pilot Competency scheme | routes to an integrated airspace through industry cooperation | industry needs from a UK Airspace Design Service | supporting investor confidence and the commercialisation of drone operations
Paul McKinder, NPCC Drone Programme Manager, National Police Chief's Council
Anne-Lise Scaillierez, CEO, ARPAS-UK
Simon Phippard, Of Counsel, Aviation and Aerospace Practice, Bird & Bird
Christian Scheel Struwe, VP, Government and Policy, Altitude Angel
Duncan Casey, UK Head, Airworthiness and Certification, Prime Air, Amazon
- 10.00 Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.30 **Case study: aligning regulation and sector growth**
Larissa Haas, UAS Policy Coordinator, Federal Office of Civil Aviation, Switzerland
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.50 **Chair's closing remarks**
Simon Masters, Deputy Challenge Director, Future Flight, Innovate UK
- 10.55 Break
- 11.05 **Chair's opening remarks**
Thomas Howard, Westminster eForum
- 11.10 **The Future Flight Challenge and next steps for supporting drone sector investment and innovation**
Simon Masters, Deputy Challenge Director, Future Flight, Innovate UK
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.30 **Assessing the needs of the UK drone industry for innovation and supporting growth**
Robert Garbett, Chief Executive, Drone Major
- 11.40 **Supporting growth of the UK drone sector going forward - investment, research, and innovation**
evaluating existing investment commitments from industry | understanding infrastructure requirements | priorities for supporting additional investment | strategies for supporting new entrants in the industry | exploring future drone applications | priorities for the industry to facilitate research and innovation
Craig Roberts, Head of Drones, PWC
Nick Tudor, CEO, D-RisQ
Simon Ritterband, Managing Director, Moonrock Drone Insurance
Louisa Smith, Chief Aviation Officer, Apian
Yuri Andersson, Executive Director, Angoka
- 12.05 Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.30 **Policy priorities for supporting the UK drone industry**
Sofia Stayte, Head, Future of Flight, Department for Transport
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 **Chair's and Westminster eForum closing remarks**
Thomas Howard, Westminster eForum