



# London Health Bridge

ACP-2023-061 Assessment meeting



# Agenda

1. Introduction
2. Statement of Need (discussion & review) (All)
3. Issues or opportunities arising from proposed change (Apian)
4. Options to exploit/address opportunities & issues identified (Apian)
5. Provisional indication of the level and process requirements (CAA)
6. Provisional timescales (All)
7. Next Steps and AOB



# 1. Introduction

## Who are we?

- Apian is a healthcare logistics company whose mission is to deliver faster, smarter and greener healthcare.
- Working in partnership with Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust (GSTT)

## What are we wanting to do?

Apian and partners are seeking to trial a daytime on-demand drone delivery service for high-priority pathology samples between the laboratories at GSTT. This service has the potential to greatly increase access and efficiency to best-in-class diagnostic platforms, thereby enhancing patient care, saving costs, and promoting sustainability.

## What have we done so far?

- Application submitted and accepted as part of TRA Sandbox CAP2540
- Apian/NATS/UAS Operator/CAA discussions
  - Airspace information and integration plan
  - NATS/UAS Operator Coordination procedures - under finalisation
  - NATS Controller safety assessment meeting
- Aviation stakeholder discussions have started, no blockers identified
  - Air Ambulance (London, Kent...), NPAS, Met Police, Military, London Heliport



## 2. Statement of Need (discussion & review)

The airspace change sponsor, Apian, in conjunction with Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust (GSTT) is looking to conduct feasibility flights using Uncrewed Aircraft Systems (UAS) for the distribution of high-priority pathology samples and medicines between two NHS' hospitals. This use of UAS has the potential to speed up delivery times thereby enhancing patient care, saving costs, and promoting sustainability.

The airspace change sponsor is proposing that the transport of these time-sensitive small and medium-weight healthcare items is conducted by UAS flying Beyond Visual Line of Sight (BVLOS). In order to do this in the area selected for this activity, current regulation requires the activity to be contained within segregated airspace.



## 2. Statement of Need (discussion & review)

**Trial objective:** On-demand Uncrewed Aircraft Systems (UAS) delivery service for high-priority pathology samples from patients receiving treatment at Guy's Hospital to the laboratory at St Thomas' Hospital

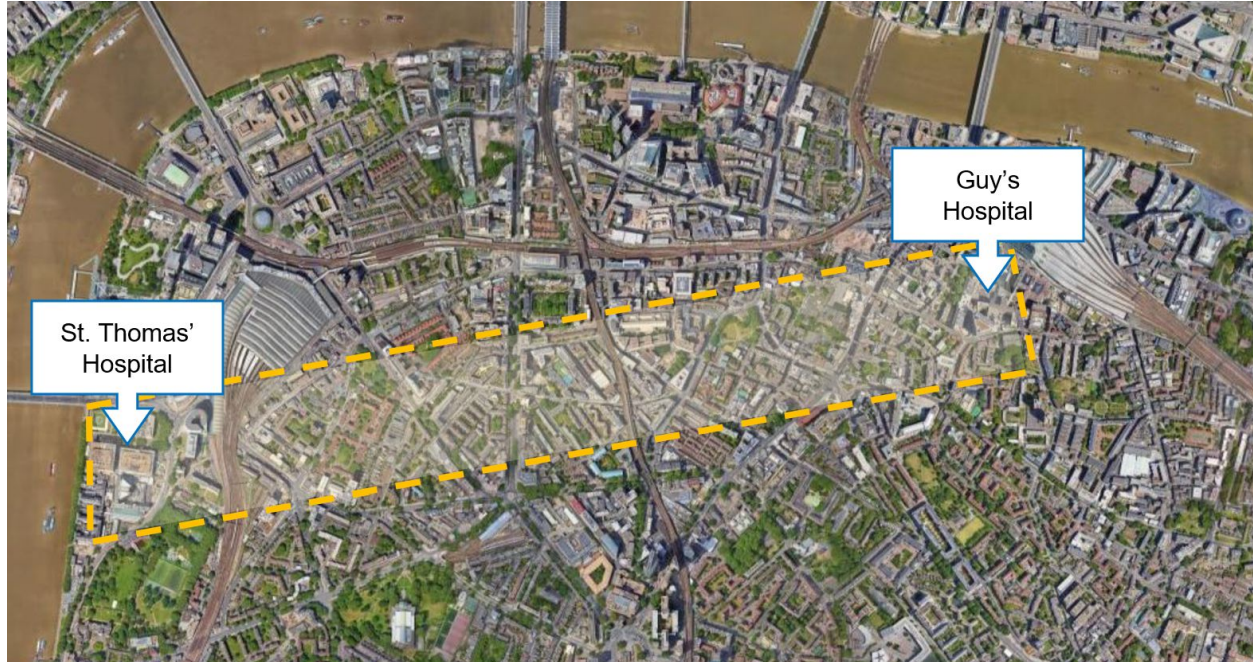
**Healthcare goal:** Improve lab testing turnaround times and provide logistical resilience to enhance patient health outcomes, increase lab efficiency and promote sustainability

**Aviation goal:** Demonstrate that a set of strategic mitigations and coordination with NATS meets intended target of safety and is a path forward in the UK to low-altitude UAS Beyond Visual Line of Sight routine operations in urban environments





## 2. Statement of Need (discussion & review)



For the illustrated operational flight area, the dimensions are approximately:

Length	≈2,400 m (1.5 mi)
Width	≈300 m (984 ft)
Altitude	up to 120 m (400 ft) AGL



# 3. Issues or opportunities arising from proposed change

## Opportunities

- London healthcare ground transportation congested, needs UA to deliver faster, smarter, greener healthcare to patients and clinicians
- Continue development from current trial (validations, integration with healthcare)
- Trial will see active delivery of use case not just a demonstration
- Collaboration with local airspace users to identify requirements for safe procedures to support BVLOS operations in Class D
- Helping the NHS transition towards a net zero future



# 3. Issues or opportunities arising from proposed change

Issues:

- OA and ACP alignment - Need to ensure alignment of OA request, ensuring it can be issued alongside the TRA process.





# 4. Options to exploit/address issues & opportunities identified

Open discussion



# 5. Process requirements

1. TDA Policy Statement

CAA identification of CAP 1616 requirements and stages required.

2. Stakeholder Engagement

Apian and partners conduct stakeholder engagement.

3. Safety Assessment

UA Operator has started application for an OA in the Specific Category submitted 16th Aug



## 6. Provisional Timescales

- Stakeholder engagement: 20th Oct 2023 (4weeks) [Post meeting note - adjusted to 6th Oct 2023 for 6 weeks]
- Submission: 24th Nov 2023
- Decision: 22nd Dec 2023
- Submission of AIC: 29th Dec 2023
- AIC publication date: 8th Feb 2024
- Implementation/Start ops date: 12th Feb 2024



## 7. Next steps and AoB

- CAA to confirm date when draft copy of the minutes is required.
- CAA requested to review Stakeholder engagement plan.
- Apian and partners to commence Targeted stakeholder engagement.



**Thank you**