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ACP-2023-022
Enabling RPAS operations out of RAF Leuchars

Propose: 'RPAS operations to/from a nominated diversion airfield'



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ACP Stage 1 DEFINE - Assessment Meeting

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|--|----------------|
| 1. Introduction/Apologies for Absence | CAA |
| 2. Statement of Need (discussion & review) | All |
| 3. Issues or opportunities arising from proposed change | Change Sponsor |
| 4. Options to exploit opportunities or address issues identified | Change Sponsor |
| 5. Provisional indication of the level and process requirements | CAA |
| 6. Provisional process timescales | All |
| 7. Next Steps | All |
| 8. AOB | All |



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1. Introduction/Apologies for Absence



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2. Statement of Need

Current:

When the large Remotely Piloted Air System (RPAS) Protector RG Mk1 comes into service it will require a diversion aerodrome for the eventuality that the RPAS is unable to be recovered to its main operating base at RAF Waddington; [RAF Leuchars has been selected to fill this function](#). Pursuit of an ACP optimises an approach to establish suitable airspace to enable safe and efficient access [to RAF Leuchars](#) in the event that a diversion is required. Given the anticipated performance of on-board systems and the surrounding airspace classification, this approach will support the safe integration of Protector further into the national airspace structures and in accordance with current military flying regulation.



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2. Statement of Need

Proposed amendment:

When the large Remotely Piloted Air System (RPAS) Protector RG Mk1 comes into service it will require a diversion aerodrome for the eventuality that the RPAS is unable to be recovered to its main operating base at RAF Waddington. Pursuit of an ACP optimises an approach to establish suitable airspace to enable safe and efficient access [to a nominated diversion airfield](#) in the event that a diversion is required. Given the anticipated performance of on-board systems and the surrounding airspace classification, this approach will support the safe integration of Protector further into the national airspace structures and in accordance with current military flying regulation.



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3. Issues or opportunities arising from Proposed Change

Issues

- Limited Detect and Avoid (D&A) capability;
- Initial planning has identified RAF Marham as preferred location;
- Flexible use of airspace in a busy airspace environment.



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4. Options to exploit opportunities or address issues identified

Opportunities

- Intention is only for use as a real time operational diversion requirement (and to maintain currency);
- Aspirational timeline: airspace implementation ISD (Jan 2025);
- Trials airspace under ACP-2023-047 to be used in support of this ACP;
- Using same naming convention for ACP-2023-047 will reduce workload for system changes at Swanwick.



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5. Provisional indication of the level and process requirements

CAA



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6. Provisional process timescales

Based on major AIRAC schedule:

Stage 1 Define Gateway - 26 Jan 2024

Stage 2 Develop and Assess Gateway - 23 Feb 2024

Stage 3B Consult Gateway - 29 Mar 2024

Stage 3C Consult - 30 March to 24 May 2024 (8 weeks)

Stage 3D Collate and Review submission - 31 May 2024

Stage 4 Update and Submit - 12 Jul 2024

Stage 5 Decide - 20 Sep 2024 (10 weeks)

AIP Submitted - 27 Sep 2024

AIP Publication date - 14 Nov 2024

AIP Effective Date - 26 Dec 2024



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7. Next Steps

Discussion



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8. AOB

Discussion

