



Courtesy US Air Force



## INDUSTRY FACTS

STATE  
COMMITMENT  
FOR NEW  
INFRASTRUCTURE  
**\$33**  
MILLION

**\$77**  
MILLION  
TOTAL  
INVESTMENT BY  
THE STATE OF  
NORTH  
DAKOTA

ONE OF THE  
NATION'S FIRST  
**BVLOS**  
SYSTEMS

**1ST**  
UAV  
TRANSATLANTIC  
FLIGHT

## NORTH DAKOTA UAS: AMERICA'S PROVING GROUND

North Dakota's Northern Plains UAS Test Site is an FAA-designated UAS test site. It partners with the FAA, NASA, private industry and others on leading-edge research and testing that will help integrate UAS into the national airspace system. The Northern Plains UAS Test Site supports its clients' missions around the globe.

North Dakota has invested more than \$77 million to advance UAS research and development

## GRAND SKY: THE NATION'S FIRST PRIVATE UAS PARK

Grand Sky, the nation's first UAS business and aviation park, is home for flight testing, UAS operations and research and development. Grand Sky offers build-to-suit locations and temporary facilities for commercial UAS development and testing, as well as defense-related operations support. Grand Sky offers access to secure defense networks, dark fiber, a 12,351-foot runway, uncongested airspace with less than 10 operations daily and more than 330 days of flying weather annually. Testing operations are supported with electronics component distributors, metal fabrication, 3D printing and equipment support for the most demanding test requirements. Grand Sky partners like the Northern Plains UAS Test Site can support airspace needs. Grand Sky is home to one of the nation's first BVLOS systems allowing UAS operations within 60 nautical miles of the park located in Grand Forks, N.D.



Photo courtesy Grand Sky

"Our strong commitment to supporting UAS researchers, entrepreneurs and technology, combined with our open skies, four distinct seasons and industry sectors harnessing the potential of UAS through uses such as automated farming and precision agriculture, ensure North Dakota will continue to grow as a national leader in UAS. The exciting work made possible by our statewide UAS infrastructure network and beyond visual line of sight capability will diversify our economy and create lasting benefits for taxpayers, businesses and industry alike."

Gov. Doug Burgum

## UAS TRAINING AND EDUCATION PROGRAMS



## INDUSTRY CLUSTERS

The North Dakota UAS entrepreneur cluster is larger than any other accelerator, incubator or entrepreneur center in the nation.

Almost all UAS companies operate in North Dakota including:

- Northrop Grumman
- General Atomics
- Elbit Systems of America
- Field of View
- Sharper Shape
- Robot Aviation
- ISight RPV Services
- Botlink

## SUCCESSES

- U.S. Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao selected North Dakota as one of only 10 sites nationwide to participate in the federal UAS Integration Pilot Program
- First trans-Atlantic flight of a medium-altitude, long-endurance UAS flew from Grand Sky research park near Grand Forks to England – 3,760 nautical miles in 24 hours, 2 minutes.
- Grand Sky welcomed U.S. Secretary of the Air Force Heather Wilson to North Dakota to watch the first flight of a large UAS operating BVLOS without the use of a chase plane in controlled airspace.
- NDDOT and Northern Plains UAS Test Site and their partners successfully completed their first public mission of the UAS Integration Pilot Program with a drone flight over a tailgating event at the Fargodome.

## PREMIER TEST SITE ADVANTAGES

- Strong industry support
- Open terrain
- Robust energy and agriculture industry clusters
- Broad infrastructure, including Grand Sky Business Park and Northern Plains Test Site
- Research through UND Research Institute for Autonomous Systems
- History and culture of aviation safety
- Uncongested airspace
- Climate diversity
- Unique testing locations and scenarios

