



ÚDARÁS EITLÍOCHTA NA hÉIREANN
IRISH AVIATION AUTHORITY

Open Category Drone Safety Forum

Enda Walsh – UAS Manager

David Hansell – UAS Inspector

28 November 2025



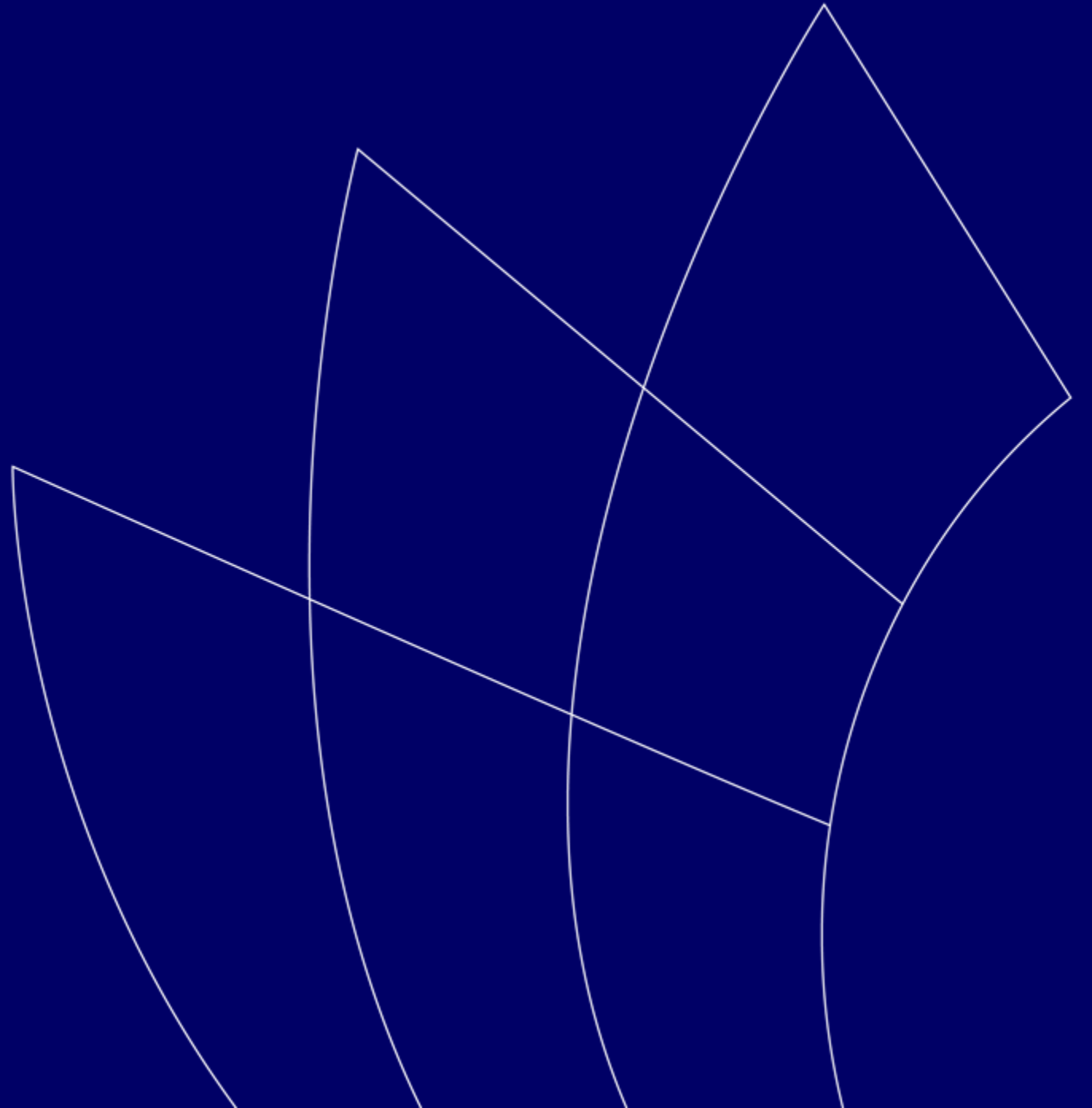
Agenda

Introduction

Statistics

Poll Questions

Q&A



Section 1

Introduction



UAS Division

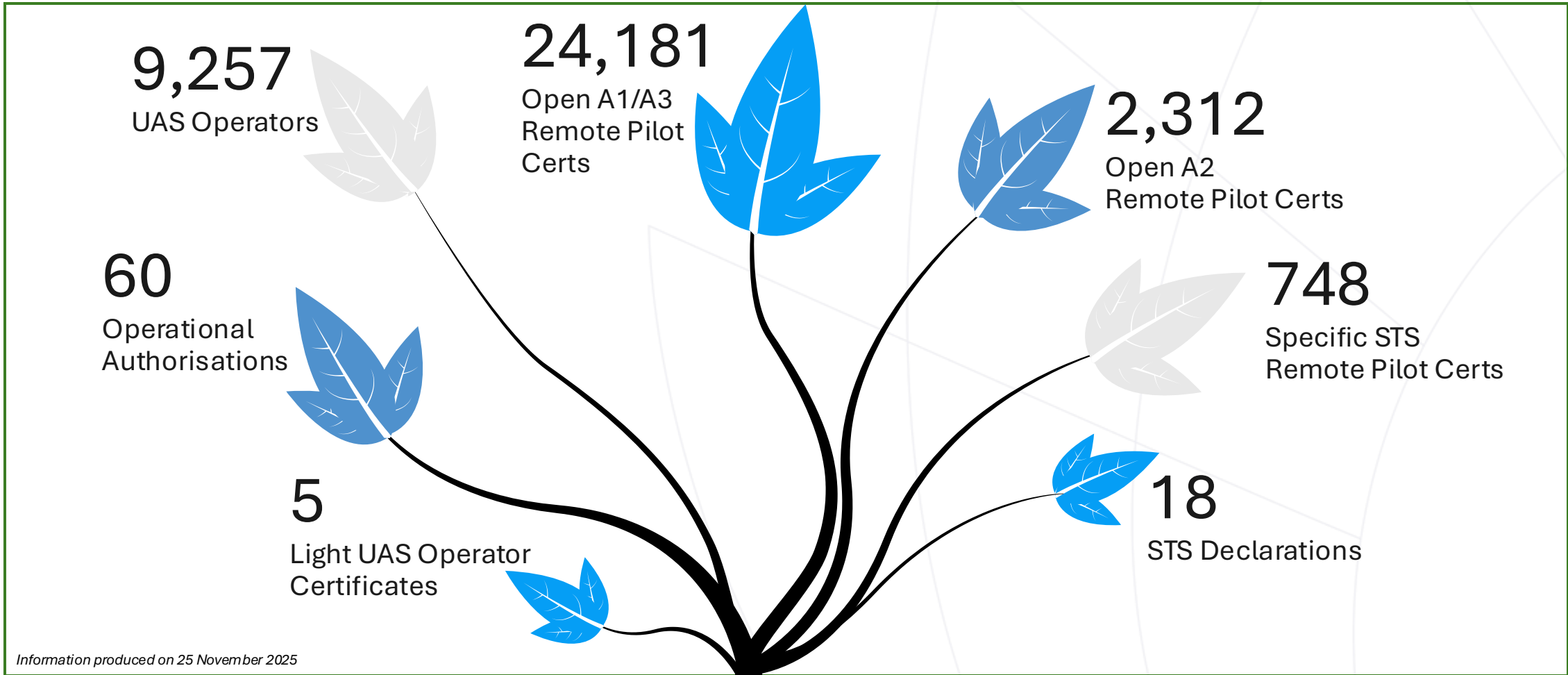
- Enda Walsh – UAS Manager
- David Hansell – UAS Inspector
- 4 Additional Staff in the UAS Division
 - Nicola
 - Saule
 - Máté
 - Mark
- Recruiting now: <https://www.iaa.ie/careers>



Section 2

Statistics





Information produced on 25 November 2025

Section 3

Poll Questions



A Brief Note

- Thank you for taking the time to submit questions. The opportunity for us to understand what is top of mind for Pilots and Operators is invaluable.
- Some questions have been grouped together based on similarity of topic.
- Some questions submitted are outside our purview or beyond the scope of this Forum.
 - E.g. Anything not covered in Regulation (EU) 2019/947
 - Drone-specific questions
 - e.g. How do I switch my drone to/from Sport Mode, my drone keeps crashing, I can't get a good satellite signal
- Q&A.
 - Available once poll questions are answered.
 - Submit questions in teams, we will call your name and open your mic for your question.
 - Use the Raise Hand tool to comment, we will call your name and open your mic.



Poll Question – Prosecutions

- Our first responsibility is aviation safety
 - Guided by Just Culture policy
 - This policy is not optional
 - Industry group has asked for us to selectively apply this Policy, that is not an option
- We do prosecute
 - Timing
 - Rights of the accused
 - Mitigate immediate safety risk
- Recent reporting on prosecutions
 - Collaboration
 - Who is bringing cases?



Poll Question – Insurance Requirements

- The distinction between hobbyist and commercial flying and the associated insurance requirements.
 - *Reg (EC) 785/2004 Article 2 (b) exempts "model aircraft with an MTOM of less than 20 kg".*
 - In this instance, model aircraft can be taken to mean UAS intended for sport or recreational use only.
- UAM004 - Guidance on Insurance Requirements for UAS Operations
 - Regulation (EC) 785/2004
 - Regulation (EU) 2018/1139
 - Regulation
- Internet search "Drone Insurance Ireland"
- Obligation to be appropriately registered



Poll Question – Restrictive Measures

- **Does the flight ban in Article 3d of Regulation (EU) No 833/2014 apply to unmanned aircraft?**

- Under Regulation (EU) No 833/2014, it is prohibited for Russian aircraft operators to operate within the European Union (this includes unmanned)

- **How is this operationalised**

- Suspension of UAS Operator Registration
- However, unmanned aircraft operated in the “open” category, as defined in Article 4 of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/947, and used for private, non-commercial, non-corporate flights carried out within Union territory and airspace for recreational purposes, may be authorised by the competent authorities, under such conditions as they deem appropriate, to land in, take off from or overfly the territory of the Union.
- May still serve as a Remote Pilot under the authority of another registered UAS Operator



Poll Question – GDPR and Where Can I Fly?

- Lunchtime Lecture Series – Where Can I Fly?
- GDPR is the purview of DPC
 - DPC has provided guidance on their website for UAS Operations and determining your role
- Overflight of private property
 - Aerial trespass, does not exist presently in either case law or in regulation
- Geographical Zones Map
 - Third party apps are not recognised or endorsed by IAA
 - GeoJson standard is challenging
- Landholder rights and other prohibitions
 - Power to prevent take-off/landing
 - Environmental Restrictions



Poll Question – Access to Prohibited/Restricted Zones

- UF-101 Process
 - See geographical zones map to determine permissions required
 - Obligation under UAS.OPEN.050 & UAS.OPEN.060
- Zone Authority
 - Determine the requirements for the zone
 - Footprint, altitude, etc determined in collaboration balancing safety and access
 - IAA does not have the authority to waive these requirements
 - Primarily, though not exclusively, for Specific Category operations
 - For longer-term access, reach out to zone authority to discuss your intentions
 - Process should be easily accessible, but access should not be EASY by default
- Altitude Angel no longer an option



Poll Question – Legacy and Privately Built UAS

- Legacy drones are not subject to exemption of subcategory requirements
 - Outreach to manufacturer
- EASA Open Category page describes this in detail
 - <https://www.easa.europa.eu/en/domains/drones-air-mobility/operating-drone/open-category-low-risk-civil-drones>
- Privately Built UNDER 250g
 - Open A1
- Privately Built OVER 250g (and under 25kg)
 - Open A3



Direct Remote Identification

- Lunchtime Lecture Series
- UAM014 - Guidance on Direct Remote ID
 - All UAS used in the specific category,
 - UAS with C1, C2, C3, C5 or C6 class identification label (CIL) regardless of the category of operation
- Legacy drones
 - Legacy drones may be exempt from the application of direct remote identification if they are operated according to Art. 20 of Regulation (EU) 2019/947 taking into consideration their maximum take-off weight respectively.



Poll Question –Changes in Regs, TRAs, NOTAMs, etc

- Currently, there are multiple notification systems in place
 - Regulatory Updates
 - IAA Newsletters
 - Opt-in MySRS messaging
 - Social Media presence
- Regulatory requirements defined in UAS.OPEN.050 and UAS.OPEN.060
- Ease of entry into the industry does not concurrently lower the obligations to obtain information to operate safely



Poll Question – Dropping Things

- Can we drop things from UAS?
 - Specifically prohibited in the Open Category
- Two options for dropping
 - Conduct operations in Specific Category
 - SORA
 - PDRA-S01 (agriculture, horticulture, forestry)
 - UAS Geographical Zone to exempt Open Category restriction on dropping
 - Used previously
 - Accompanied by a risk mitigation plan
- Many great use cases
 - Very open to exploring these with operators
 - Must be initiated by operators



Section 4
Q&A





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Thank you.