



ÚDARÁS EITLÍOCHTA NA hÉIREANN
IRISH AVIATION AUTHORITY

Specific Category Drone Safety Forum

Enda Walsh – UAS Manager

David Hansell – UAS Inspector

28 November 2025



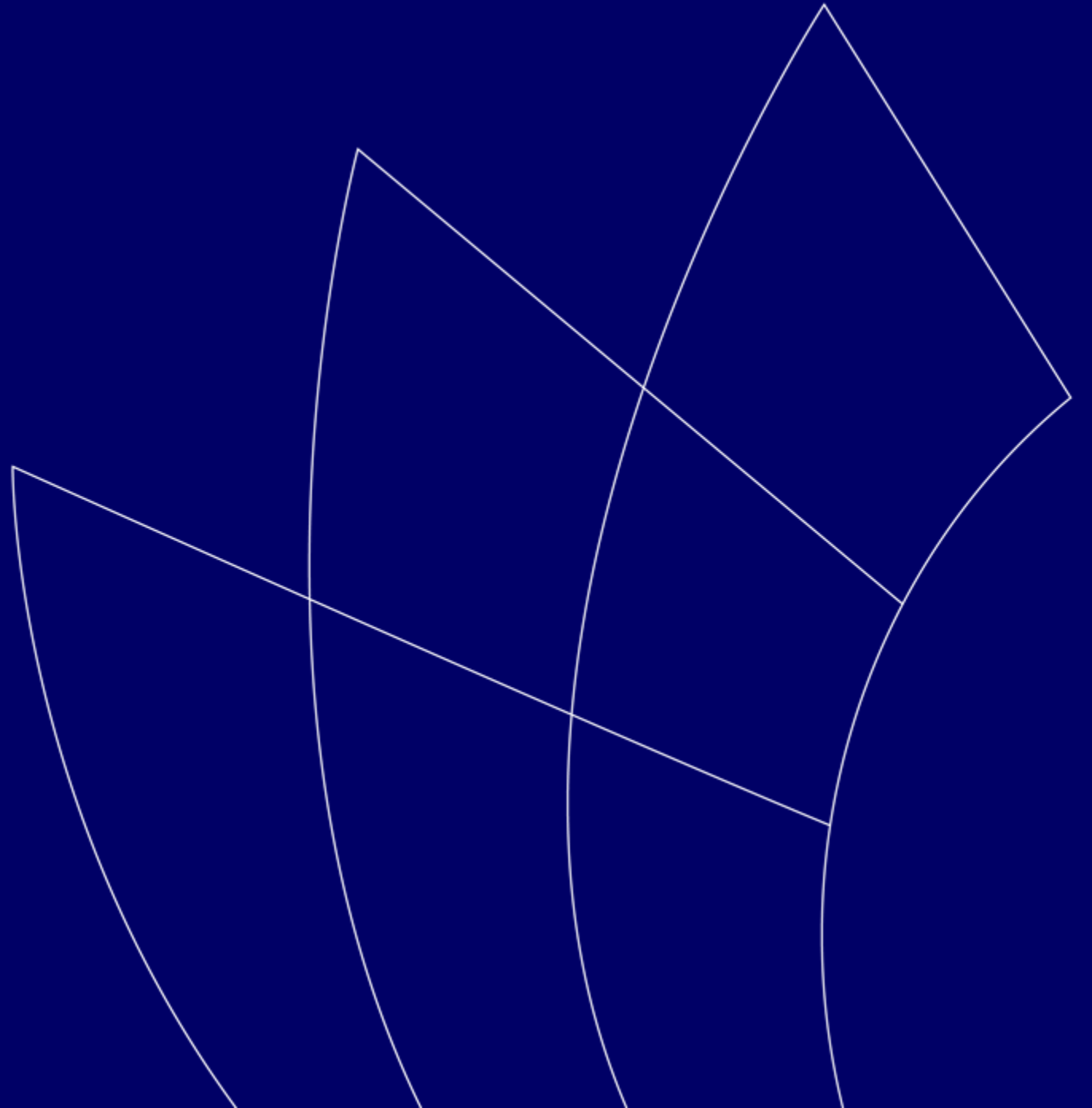
Agenda

Introduction

Statistics

Poll Questions

Q&A



Section 1

Introduction



UAS Division

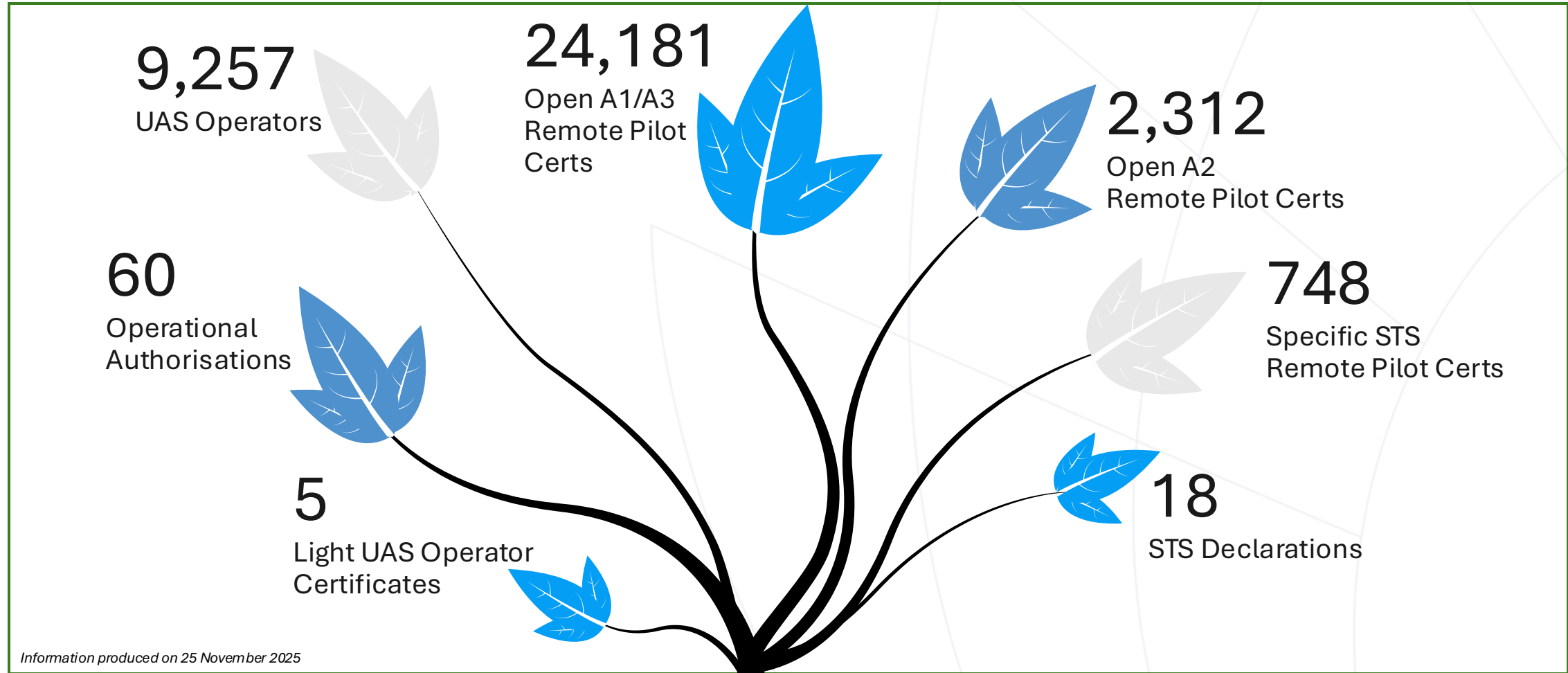
- Enda Walsh – UAS Manager
- David Hansell – UAS Inspector
- 5 Additional Staff in the UAS Division
 - Nicola
 - Saule
 - Máté
 - Mark
- Recruiting now: <https://www.iaa.ie/careers>



Section 2

Statistics





Information produced on 25 November 2025

Section 3

Poll Questions



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
 - Statutory Instruments or Acts which do not apply to the IAA
 - Questions specific to a drone function
 - E.g. My drone won't climb beyond ____, how do I change that?
- 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 – U-Space Development and Implementation Timeline

- When can we expect U-Space / UTM?
- Terminology
 - Unmanned Traffic Management (UTM)
 - U-space: Implementation of UTM in EASA Member States
- National Policy Framework
 - Action 4: Scoping
 - *“The Irish Aviation Authority will identify the requirements, timeline, and costs of a U-space delivery programme.”*
 - Action 5: Implementation
 - *“A National U-space Steering Group, led by the Department of Transport, will be established to develop and effectively implement U-space capabilities and technologies in the State.”*
 - 1st: Monitoring Group
 - Meeting early Dec to develop annual implementation plan



Poll Question – Where Can I fly?

- Can you clarify whether or not any drone operator (whether registered in any category or not) may fly a drone up to and including 15meters AGL in **any area** (excluding NO FLY ZONES or TRAs)?All Range of Ops
 - The use of the word ANY makes this very clearly NO.
 - There are myriad restrictions around the country
 - Safety, Security, Environmental, Privacy
- Obligations within 2019/947 require Operator to obtain all relevant information related to where operations will take place
- Specific Category operations are much more precise in location



Poll Question – Distinction between business and hobby

- There is none!
 - Exception with respect to insurance (see previous slide)
- Regulation (EU) 2019/947 and all associated regulations apply to ALL UAS operations
- Categorisation between Open and Specific
 - Open is the starting point
 - Once you exceed a limitation of the Open, you are obligated to operate in Specific
- Insurance regulations
 - Recreation/Sport and Everything else



Poll Question – Scaling commercial operations via UAS Geographical Zones

- National Policy Framework for Unmanned Aircraft Systems - How do you see this supporting scaling of current commercial drone operations in Ireland through the implementation of UAS Geographical Zones?
- Reg (EU) 2019/947 Article 15
 - States may define UAS Geographical Zones for safety, security, privacy or environmental reasons
 - Environmental includes noise
 - Robust policies and procedures already exist for safety and security. Policy gap for privacy and environmental
 - Within these zones states may:
 - prohibit certain or all UAS operations, request particular conditions for certain or all UAS operations or require a prior flight authorisation for certain or all UAS operations,
 - subject UAS operations to specified environmental standards;
 - allow access to certain UAS classes only;
 - allow access only to UAS equipped with certain technical features, in particular remote identification systems or geo awareness systems.
- The policy framework is intended to:
 - foster the development of a thriving UAS sector in Ireland while addressing societal concerns,
 - ensure the safety and security of UAS operations through responsible regulation, and
 - future-proof the responsible and sustainable development of the industry
- Action 3: UAS Geographical Zones
 - *“Relevant State agencies, government departments and local government will determine and request UAS Geographical Zones through the Irish Aviation Authority in line with the processes and procedures developed through the National Working Group on UAS Geographical Zones.”*



Poll Question – Scaling commercial operations via UAS Geographical Zones

- National Policy Framework for Unmanned Aircraft Systems - How do you see this supporting scaling of current commercial drone operations in Ireland through the implementation of UAS Geographical Zones?
- Scaling of UAS operations requires U-space
 - All ops, both commercial and recreational
 - In particular BVLOS ops
- Interim solutions, e.g.
 - UAS Geographical Zones
 - TMZ
 - Increased conspicuity
 - DAA
- U-space actions (4 & 5) direct impact on industry growth
- UAS Geographical Zones action (3) impact societal acceptance enabling growth



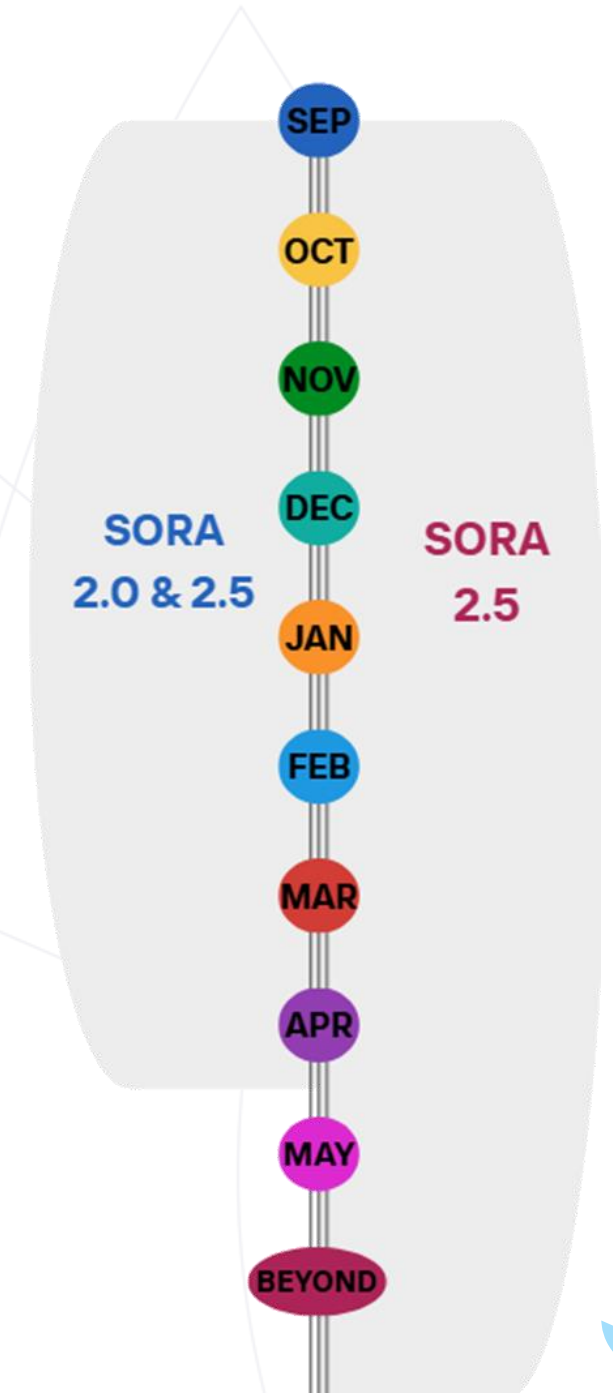
Poll Question – A2/STS Testing

- IAA UAS Pilot examination system has proven to be unreliable in giving accurate results and requires manual interventions causing substantial delays in pilot certification, can this be improved?
- IAA is aware of the challenges, the following measure were introduced
 - UAM018
 - This document provides clarification on the confusing indication of results (and was updated according to feedback and experience with the proctoring system)
 - The RTEs have been contacted and advised about the current situation to further disseminate information included in UAM 018
 - Multiple single queries have been answered and are handled by the UAS Division
 - Proctoring will be integrated into mySRS



Poll Question – SORA Timelines – 2.0 vs 2.5

- SORA 2.5 applicable since 29.09.25
 - Several application received under SORA 2.5 already
- Existing OAs under SORA 2.0
 - You MAY renew up to 60 days prior to expiration using 2.0 until end of April 2026
 - If you are currently intent on pursuing a SORA today, you can use 2.0 or 2.5.
- OAs issued under 2.0 will remain valid for the validity of the OA, i.e. 2 yrs from date of issue.



Section 4
Q&A





ÚDARÁS EITLÍOCHTA NA hÉIREANN
IRISH AVIATION AUTHORITY

Thank you