Launching Drone Services – Legal, Ethical and Technical Considerations

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Abstract

This presentation is geared toward the relative novice in drone knowledge and will present an overview for those interested in learning more about what it takes to launch a commercial drone services operation. We'll start with the FAA regulatory environment is discussed, including both the prior Section 333 Exemption process, and the current Part 107 path towards actually obtaining a Remote Pilot certificate, including recommendations for studying and passing the required Part 107 knowledge test.

The changing public perception of drones, from unawareness, through the stages of curiosity, technical wonder, dangerous nuisance to their use as a viable business platform will be covered. A discussion of privacy considerations and laws, is followed by a lighthearted look at some of the common misperceptions surrounding drones, from a technology, piloting and legal perspective.

We'll discuss the Business of Drones, including career opportunities, and a recommended method for getting started, including picking a market segment, choosing the right tools, obtaining the necessary training and delivering to market. Also covered in obtaining the skills and knowledge are two ends of the spectrum, including "How We Learned" (self-taught, working through the maze of Guess, Buy, Fly, Crash, Fix – repeat as necessary) and "How We Teach" (a direct path towards picking the right tools and learning how to use them through enlisting the services of a drone consultant). In conclusion, a sample implementation of a UAS mapping strategy, both in initial stages and scaling up to a mature operation will be covered, followed by a Q&A session.