THE FUTURE IS HERE.



UNMANNED AERIAL SYSTEMS (UAS) ARE A GAME CHANGER...AND AN ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY OF A LIFETIME.

Worldwide, use of Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) has expanded beyond mere military and governmental use to include both aviation and non-aviation businesses and organizations. UAS and similar technologies are embraced by civil and commercial users due to radical improvements in operational efficiency, safety, security, and cost. According to NASA, UAS operations will increase exponentially once fully integrated into the national airspace systems.

UAS and other emerging technologies are changing the transportation industry, opening new markets, creating jobs, and enabling economic growth.

HOW SEBRING STAYS AHEAD OF THE CURVE

The Sebring Airport Authority (SAA) in conjunction with City, County and State officials is at the forefront of emerging technology growth. SAA has implemented several initiatives to support UAS and related technologies, and Sebring Regional Airport and Multimodal Facility (SEF) is one of only a few airports in the country that regularly supports UAS operations.

SEBRING ~ STRATEGICALLY POSITIONED

RURAL AREA OF OPPORTUNITY

Highlands County is designated as a Rural Area of Opportunity. This designation allows businesses to take advantage of numerous tax incentives as well as economic development opportunities. SEF is within reach of more than 86% of Florida's population due to its proximity to four major cities: Orlando, Tampa, St. Petersburg and Miami. That's about 17 million people.

In addition to the Rural Area of Opportunity and various technology initiatives, SEF is a prime location for aviation/aerospace, marine, and terrestrial research, development and testing as we offer what others simply cannot:

- Uncongested airspace
- Compatible land use
- On-site rail spur
- Available infrastructure and facilities
- On-site foreign trade zone and international racetrack
- A shovel ready technology zone in conjunction with the Catalyst Infrastructure Development/Florida's Heartland Economic Region of Opportunity project
- Long-term relationships with US DOD and US DOT
- Local and state support





SEBRING: A HISTORY OF BEING PROGRESSIVE.

SEF has a long history as a "test bed" for various emerging technologies through its work with the FAA, FDOT, NASCAR, and several prestigious universities. Growth in UAS demand prompted SAA in 2015 to obtain a FAA Letter of Agreement for limited UAS operations at the airport. The LOA allows the airport to regularly support on-site drone racing sponsored by MultiGP's Drone Racing League, limited aerial photography operations, as well as research and testing. SAA is also an industry partner on the FAA's Center of Excellence Alliance for System Safety of UAS through Research Excellence (FAA ASSURE).

NOT JUST KEEPING UP, BUT PLANNING AHEAD

SAA is finalizing its UAS Integration Planning Study and applying for a FAA Part 107 Blanket Certificate of Authorization (COA) to allow expanded unmanned and autonomous operations and activities at the Airport, Commerce Park and Catalyst Development Zone.

Other on-going efforts include SAA's work with Stinson and Associations and Astrid Aviation Aerospace LLC to train future air traffic controllers using ATSI's "SMART" Simulator System as part of an FAA Center of Excellence and Presidential STEM initiative at Tuskegee University. SEF was specifically chosen to be part of this program due to available infrastructure, airspace, compatible land use, and the type of aviation, manned and unmanned operations.

SAA as part of its Terminal Apron rehabilitation/expansion incorporated infrastructure to support installation of UAS/aircraft charging stations. Other projects being pursued include an on-site micro-grid technology park, on-site technology incubators, airfield improvements including extension of Runway 1-19, and planned apron expansion, holding pads, hangar and building development, etc. to support both manned and unmanned operations. SAA staff continue to work with regulators, industry groups, businesses and other stakeholders to identify opportunities and obtain funding for planned development via public private partnerships, various educational and business grants, user revenues, and ultimately federal and state funding.

FROM AUTONOMOUS VEHICLES TO URBAN AIR MOBILITY

With the passage of CS/HB311, Autonomous Vehicles, the State has taken a proactive role in unmanned and autonomous vehicle technology. Transportation network companies, such as Uber and Lyft, are working with NASA, DOT, Universities and manufacturers to transform the current transportation system. Urban Air Mobility (UAM) is one of the markets being evaluated. UAM "is defined as the safe and efficient system for air passenger and cargo transportation within an urban area, inclusive of small package delivery and other urban unmanned aerial systems (UAS) services, which supports a mix of onboard/ground-piloted and increasingly autonomous operations." NASA has defined three specific UAM markets: Airport Shuttle, Air Taxi and Air Ambulance services. All of which could be safely tested and implemented at SEF.



TODAY IS HERE. TOMORROW IS AROUND THE CORNER.

UNMANNED SYSTEMS TODAY

- Military (i.e. intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance, combat training, etc.)
- Research and Development
- Remote Sensing
- Firefighting, Law Enforcement and Emergency Management
- Aerial Photography and Survey
- Construction
- Agriculture
- Telecommunications
- Conservation
- Resource Inspections and Exploration
- Healthcare
- Journalism/Film
- Healthcare
- Gaming Drones (Racing and obstacle courses)

UNMANNED SYSTEMS

TOMORROW

- Passenger Transport (Air Taxi, Medivac, Air Carrier, etc.)
- Package Delivery
- Accident Investigation
- Early Warning Systems
- Treasure Hunting

THE FUTURE IS HERE. AND IT'S MIND BLOWING.

Governmental and industry economists foresee exponential growth in unmanned and autonomous transportation markets. This type of growrth is also expected in cybersecurity, suborbital technology, space technology and development, personalized nutrition and agriculture, robotics, esports, virtual reality, smart home and business technology.

Based upon the findings of the recent UAS planning study, SEF's current infrastructure can safely support airport shuttle, air taxi and package delivery vertical and horizontal UAS operations. SEF is also an excellent site for UAM related services, such as: maintenance and fueling, UAM communications and transit centers, training facilities, and emergency management services.

Other opportunities include research and testing related to DOD operations, new aviation fuel testing, unmanned and autonomous ground vehicle testing at the Sebring International Racetrack, navigational, radio frequency, cybersecurity testing, counter drone technology, and wildlife management. Thus, available infrastructure, incentives, ongoing relations with DOD, educational institutions and business innovators clearly demonstrates that SEF is more than just transportation. SEF is a "Technology Innovation Playground."



GET ON BOARD WITH SEBRING

SAA staff continue to work with regulators, industry groups, businesses and other stakeholders to identify opportunities to obtain funding for planned development via a variety of grants and industry partnerships. Whether you're an owner, CEO or other key decision maker, you are invited to become part of the Technology Revolution taking place at SEF. Climb on board, it's going to be a great ride.





For more information and to find out about how you can be a part of our dynamic Sebring environment, contact us today.

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