**APPROVED FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Assets for download:**

<https://www.npuasts.com/press/press-release/faa-accepts-vantis-for-safety-mitigation-for-recurring-bvlos-operations>

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**FAA Accepts Vantis for Safety Mitigation for Recurring BVLOS Operations**

*LOA Acknowledges Vantis’ Role in Industry-wide Systemic Risk Management*

GRAND FORKS, North Dakota – The Northern Plains UAS Test Site (NPUASTS), a North Dakota state agency, announced that the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has signed a Letter of Acceptance (LOA) for the use of Vantis as a safety mitigation for beyond-visual line-of-sight (BVLOS) drone operations.

In the United States, approval under an exemption provides for repeatability and can be referenced for future approvals, accelerating the path to recurring BVLOS flights for all drone operators. The LOA allows for the use of Vantis for drone operations pursuant to that exemption. This means that commercial drone operators can use Vantis services, like collision avoidance, in their safety Concept of Operations (ConOps) to fast-track the waiver process.

“This comprehensive approach moves away from relying solely on operational restrictions, focusing on systemic risk management,” said Jeff Richards, ATM Operations Expert at Thales, the technology partner for Vantis. “Vantis acts as the operational backbone, providing operators with a level of support and safety that can be referenced directly as a risk mitigator for commercial BVLOS operations.”

The LOA can also be used to document FAA’s review of the Vantis system for these operations and may be submitted as an artifact for future operators seeking to fly the same ConOps. The LOA can be leveraged as part of a safety case for different ConOps but may require further evaluation or demonstrations. While the LOA does not itself guarantee future approvals or authorizations, the FAA may use it in the analysis in support of other exemptions or waivers.

“Requiring commercial UAS operators to bring their own infrastructure is costly, time-consuming, and doesn’t scale,” said Erin Roesler, Deputy Executive Director for Vantis. “Vantis is the solution: a shared-use suite of services to support repeatable and scalable UAS operations.”

“This LOA enables us to expand our operations to perform BVLOS flights in Vantis service volumes,” said Doug McDonald, General Manager, ISight. “This both enhances our operational capabilities and the value we deliver to our customers.”

Vantis is expanding to new coverage volumes. Contact us for more information.

**About Northern Plains UAS Test Site**

As one of seven FAA-designated UAS Test Sites, the NPUASTS is committed to leading the nation in autonomous technology solutions. Our mission is to innovate, test, and advance these technologies, bringing tangible benefits to communities nationwide. Through high-quality research, commercialization of UAS technologies, and active participation in policy and standards development, the NPUASTS is at the forefront of integrating UAS into the National Airspace System.

**About Vantis**

Vantis is North Dakota’s statewide unmanned aircraft system (UAS) beyond-visual-line-of-sight (BVLOS) system, the first of its kind in the nation and administered by the Northern Plains UAS Test Site. Created by North Dakota with an initial investment in 2019, Vantis provides turnkey support to commercial and public UAS operators through infrastructure and regulatory approvals allowing applications and usability over a variety of industries. Visit VantisUAS.com for more information.