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**Assets for download:**

<https://www.npuasts.com/press/press-release/northern-plains-uas-test-site-supports-aura-network-systems-faa-contract-to-enhance-uas-integration-in-nas>

**Northern Plains UAS Test Site Supports AURA Network Systems’
 FAA Contract to Enhance UAS Integration in NAS**

**GRAND FORKS, North Dakota** – The Northern Plains UAS Test Site (NPUASTS) will support AURA Network Systems’ recently announced contract with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). AURA, a leader in secure and reliable communications solutions for the aviation industry, received a FAA Broad Agency Announcement (BAA) contract to demonstrate and validate technologies in support of the safe integration of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) into the National Airspace System (NAS).

The NPUASTS will work closely with AURA as the UAS will be using the Test Site’s Nationwide Certificate of Authorization to demonstrate the company’s voice capabilities within the project. AURA’s mission includes qualitative and quantitative measurements of voice quality, intelligibility, and end-to-end latency, showcasing AURA's unique ability to meet the voice latency requirements of RTCA DO-377B. Flights are planned in Mayville, ND, approximately 40 miles south of Grand Forks Air Force Base.

“Our partnership with AURA is a vital step in advancing UAS technologies,” said Trevor Woods, Executive Director of NPUASTS. “Its innovative communications solutions are pivotal for the safe integration of UAS into the national airspace. We look forward to collaborating on this important project to enhance airspace operations and ensure safer skies.”

AURA will provide a voice relay that enables a remote pilot of an unmanned aircraft to communicate with Air Traffic Control (ATC) as if onboard the aircraft, a critical factor for safe and effective airspace integration. Its network is designed to provide command-and-control and voice services, leveraging aviation-dedicated frequencies to enable beyond-visual-line-of-sight (BVLOS) UAS flight. The NPUASTS supports UAS flight testing, including BVLOS flights, and offers access to facilities and assets throughout North Dakota.

“Our work with NPUASTS offers unparalleled opportunities to test and refine our communications solutions in a controlled yet expansive FAA-designated test environment,” said Kevin Steen, Chief Executive Officer of AURA. “We are eager to demonstrate how our technology can support the broader commercialization and safe operation of UAS across the nation.”

**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. Visit [NPUASTS.com](https://www.npuasts.com/) for more information.

**About AURA Network Systems**

AURA is a leading provider of specialized communications services, catering to both crewed and uncrewed aviation markets. Our dedicated team is laser-focused on developing and deploying a comprehensive suite of aviation infrastructure solutions that enhance autonomy and safety within the National Airspace System. From our command-and-control service using exclusive, aviation-dedicated spectrum to our patented spectrum management system, AURA’s private network is designed to enable the commercial viability of emerging aviation technologies while supporting operators in achieving regulatory compliance. Discover more at [auranetworksystems.com](http://auranetworksystems.com/).