

Both the US and EU regulators are introducing a federated UTM/U-Space system where drone operators can use their UTM provider of choice.

01 The bigger picture

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The webinar showed the convergence between the EU and US. Both regions are working on the same issues – in a similar context and within a similar timing – with prominent roles for the FAA-NASA-NextGen at the US side, and Commission-EASA-SESAR at the EU side. The converging concrete results give operators and investors regulatory certainty.

The FAA has adopted the E-Identification rule. The rule does not go as far as some had hoped, but the FAA continues to working on a networked solution for UTM, beyond the current “digital licence plate” rule that became effective on 21 April of this year.

From the EU side, the Commission has just, exactly one day after the US RID rule, adopted the U-space regulation – creating a complete framework for digital and automated BVLOS flights. The regulation specifies where, by whom and how U-Space operations can be organised.

The range of UTM-U-space services already formally regulated is quite extended and includes: geofencing, network identification, authorization, traffic information as mandatory services; weather and conformance monitoring as optional services. The next step in the regulatory process, apart from implementation of the U-Space regulation, is urban air mobility. EASA will come with a complementary initiative later in 2021 that the Commission then later will adopt. EASA would like to elaborate rules on operations in the certified category – operations where you need certification of the aircraft, the operator, and where required, the pilot.

Important pieces of the regulatory framework are put into place and show the direction that the policymakers are going. Both the US and EU regulators are introducing a federated UTM/U-Space system where drone operators can use their UTM provider of choice. In normal political terms: competition. This is a clear break from the traditional ATM approach and the systems are particularly devised for large scale commercial operations.

The FAA and EASA presentations of the webinars, together with the speakers' information of this “Emerging global UTM Trends” webinar, can be found [▶ here](#). GUTMA Members can access the recordings of the webinars [▶ here](#) and the other presentations [▶ here](#).