BVLOS is sometimes perceived as the holy grail of drone operations. Yet autonomous long distance operations depend on data and connectivity. The European U-Space Regulation is a gamechanger. The regulation imposes connectivity for drones and conspicuity for manned aviation that enter a U-Space airspace. These obligations deliver the required information to keep operations in the U-Space safe.

While Europe has based its drone policy on the Specific Operations Risk Assessment (SORA) and the U-Space regulation, the US does not have, for the moment being, such harmonized regulatory framework. Conflict avoidance, in general terms, can be built on rules based procedural separation, strategic separation by reservation of airspace, and tactical separation, for instance through the airborne conflict avoidance system ACAS Xu.

In any case, connectivity is the prerequisite to make air traffic cooperative to become managed by the UTM system. GUTMA, together with the GSM Association, is developing the standards for the telecom industry to provide connectivity adapted to high safety levels for aviation.

The presentation of Lorenzo Murzilli, together with the speakers’ information of this “BVLOS | Airspace characterization and the challenges of air risk modelling“ webinar, can be found here. GUTMA Members can access the recordings of the webinars here and the other presentations here.