**California Unmanned Aircraft Systems Fact Sheet**

**UAS in California:**

* The University of California, Davis and UC Merced have received multiple operational certificates of authorization from the FAA to conduct research using UAS. The [MESA lab at UC Merced](http://www.kmph.com/story/24486432/u-c-merced-students) has been awarded eight COAs to perform research using UAS for agricultural applications to understand crop growth dynamics, natural resource management, environmental monitoring, automated data surveillance-broadcast, airworthiness and integration into the national airspace.
* The Los Angeles Police Department and [Ventura County Sheriff’s Office](http://www.nbclosangeles.com/news/local/Ventura-County-Sheriffs-Department-Could-First-State-Use-Drones-261172971.html) have tested UAS to help save civilian and department lives. UAS can help law enforcement save lives and property by providing effective situational awareness in harsh conditions for rescue operations or other emergencies. Firefighters, public health experts and Red Cross volunteers in [Dunsmuir used UAS for aerial views](http://beniciaindependent.com/topics/dunsmuir-california/) of a simulated train derailing and chemical spill to identify better ways to prepare emergency responders.
* The University of California Davis and Yamaha have demonstrated [spraying a vineyard with pesticides from an unmanned RMAX helicopter](http://www.pressdemocrat.com/business/2980362-181/drones-could-become-familiar-sight), a tactic which has been extensively used in Japan to save time, increase accuracy and improve yields.

**Economic and Jobs Impact:**

* According to AUVSI’s 2013 report “[The Economic Impact of Unmanned Aircraft Systems Integration in the United States](http://www.auvsi.org/econreport),” the UAS industry is poised to create more than 100,000 jobs and have more than $82 billion in economic impact in the first decade after integration.
* California is predicted to be the top state to see gains in terms of job creation and additional revenue as production of UAS increase, with more than 12,000 jobs created in three years following integration and over $14 billion in economic impact created in the first decade.
* According to an AUVSI report, among the first 3,136 commercial UAS exemptions, California led the way with 360 approved business operators. These operators supported industries such as agriculture, construction, filmmaking and emergency management.

**Relevant News and Information:**

[**Will drones become the toast of Napa?**](http://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2016-02-18/in-napa-crop-dusting-drones-are-ready-for-takeoff), *Bloomberg*, February 18, 2016

[**California’s commercial drone industry is taking off**](http://www.latimes.com/business/la-fi-drones-20150614-story.html), *The Los Angeles Times*, June 14, 2015

[**5 Bay Area drone companies to watch**](http://www.bizjournals.com/sanfrancisco/blog/2015/01/5-bay-area-drone-companies-to-watch.html), *San Francisco Business Times*, January 23, 2015

[**Simi Valley company first to get FAA approval for flights over land**](http://losangeles.cbslocal.com/2014/06/13/simi-valley-company-first-to-get-faa-approval-for-commercial-drone-flights-over-land/), *CBS Los Angeles*, June 13, 2014