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NCTCOG PRESENTATION

North Texas Airspace Awareness Pilot

ERNEST HUFFMAN | REGIONAL SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITEE|
10.24.2025

Agenda

A. Introduction

B. Phase 1 Activities

C. Phase 2 Activities

D. Federated Drone Detection Network

E. Federal Remote ID

F. Federal Funding Opportunity

G. Next Steps

Introduction

The primary goal of this program is to enable residents and businesses to fly drones safely and access live data on potential risks, local advisories, and other flight planning features.

Purpose

- Safety
- Transparency
- Community Engagement

Vendors Selected – Aloft, Airspace Link and ATA

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Phase one

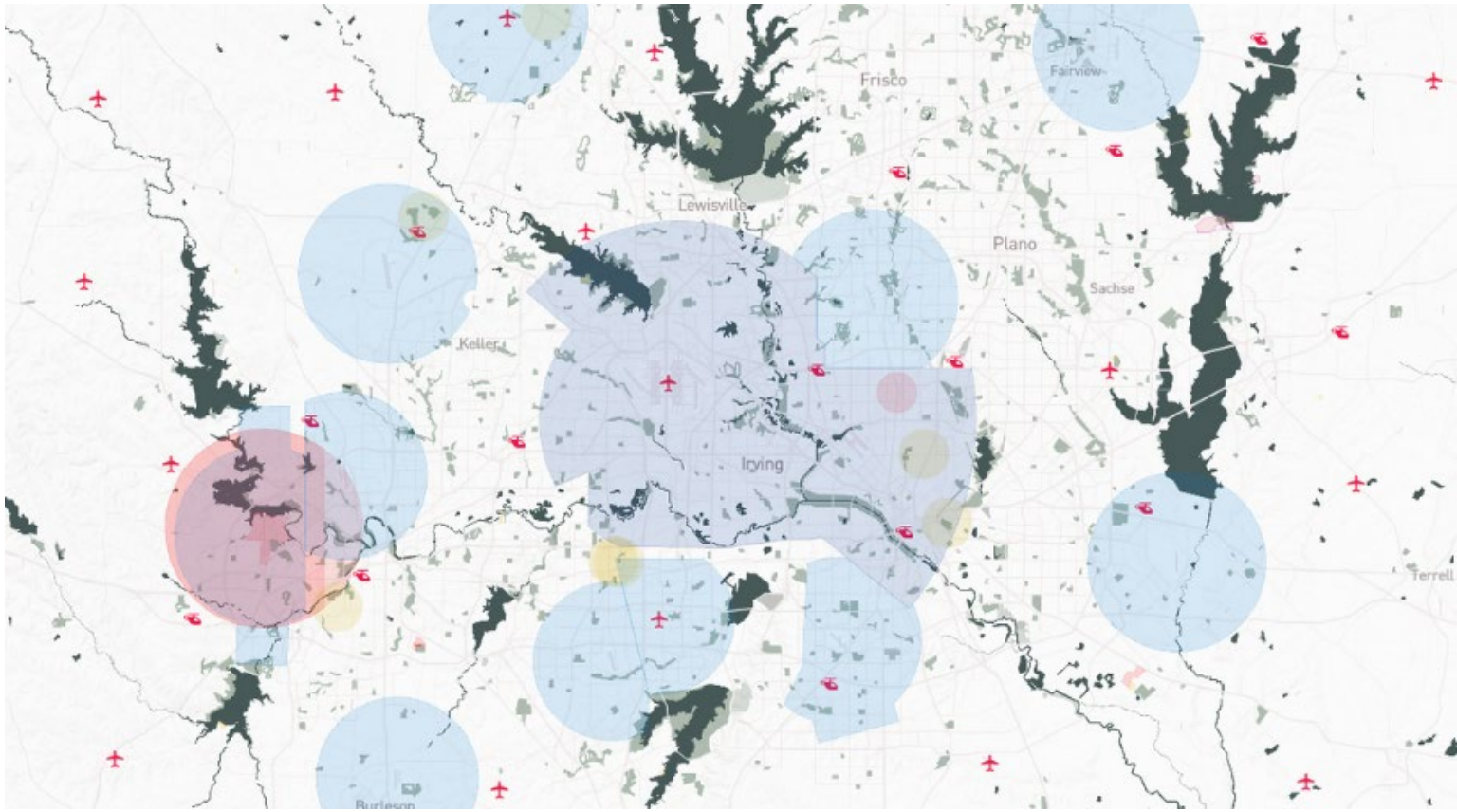
- Three Year Pilot
- In **Phase/Year One** the providers will provide NCTCOG and participating cities **licenses** to their platforms. This will allow both NCTCOG and participating cities to incorporate UAS operations from their own **operations** and to **promote** the platforms to their citizens to get the local communities to use the platforms. We also would like to use the platforms to assist in keeping the **community updated** on rules, regulations, and potential hazards, publish public advisories, local rules, regulations directly to the pilot community and communicate and connect with the communities by embedding a live operation maps into our www.northtexasuas.com webpage.

For the Phase 1 of the program, key milestones are:

Task	Month											
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
NCTCOG Recruit City Participants	x	x										
NCTCOG Receive License from Applicants	x											
NCTCOG Receive Training from Applicants		x										
City Participants Receive Training			x									
Applicants will work with NCTCOG, cities and other stakeholders to develop standardized metrics for input				x								
NCTCOG Use platforms to input data for region			x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Cities input their own data (advisories, operations, etc…)				x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Public Workshop					x							
Live Action Maps embedded on www.northtexasuas.com						x	x	x	x	x	x	x
NCTCOG will search for funding mechanism for Phase 2	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Pilot team and other stakeholders will provide a final report from Phase 1 with recommendations for Phase 2												x

Airspace Awareness Maps

[Live View]



Phase two

- In **Phase/Year Two and Three** of the Pilot, NCTCOG will continue the activities of Year One but also work on a process to **share data** across all platforms. This will ensure that all airspace management platforms in the region will have as much flight and safety data as possible to be a viable solution.

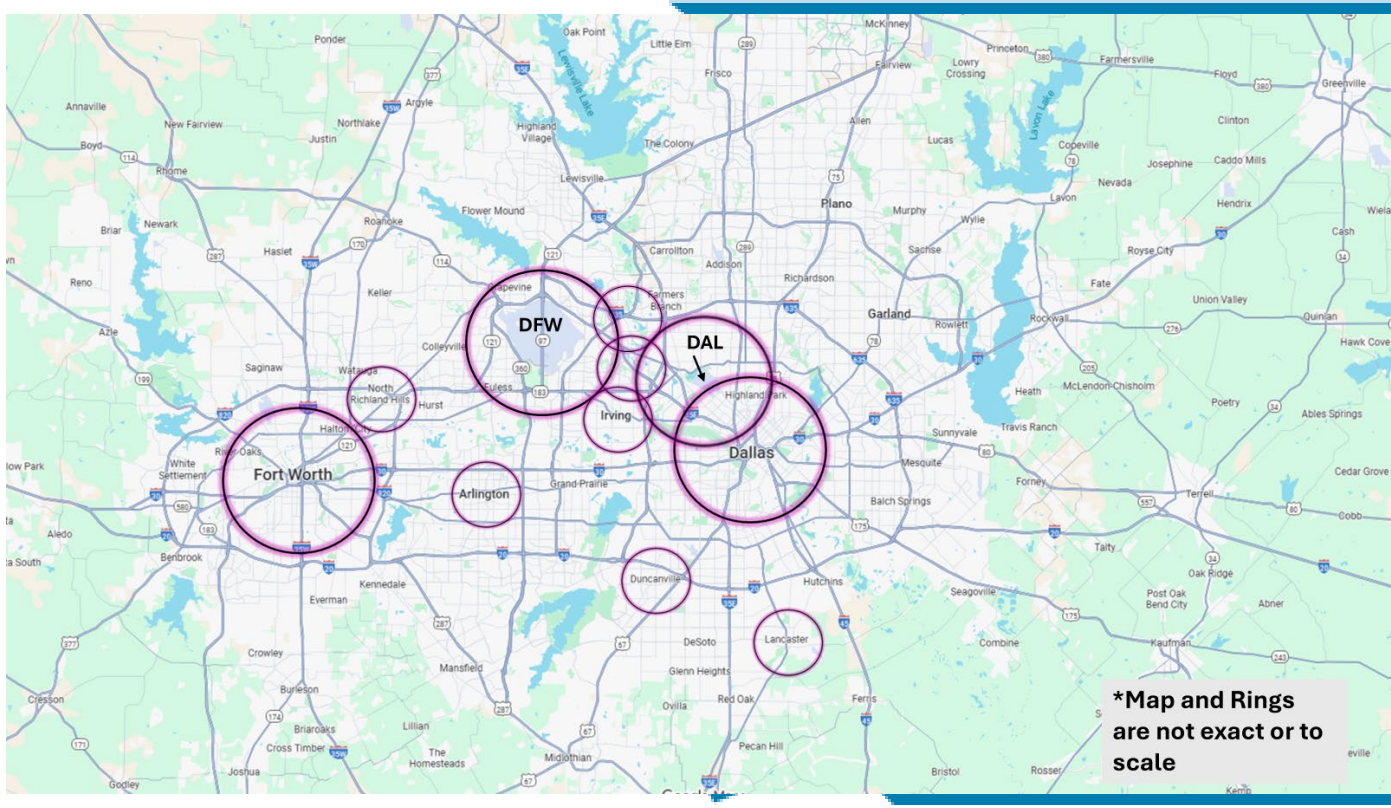
For the Phase 2 of the program, key milestones are:

Task	Month											
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Phase 1 activities	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Pilot team and other stakeholders work on integration mechanism	X	X	X									
Mechanism Determined				X								
Mechanism tests					X	X	X	X	X			
Mechanism deployed region wide									X	X	X	X
Pilot Team and other stakeholders produce final report with recommendations for future												X

Federated Drone Detection Network

Concept Overview

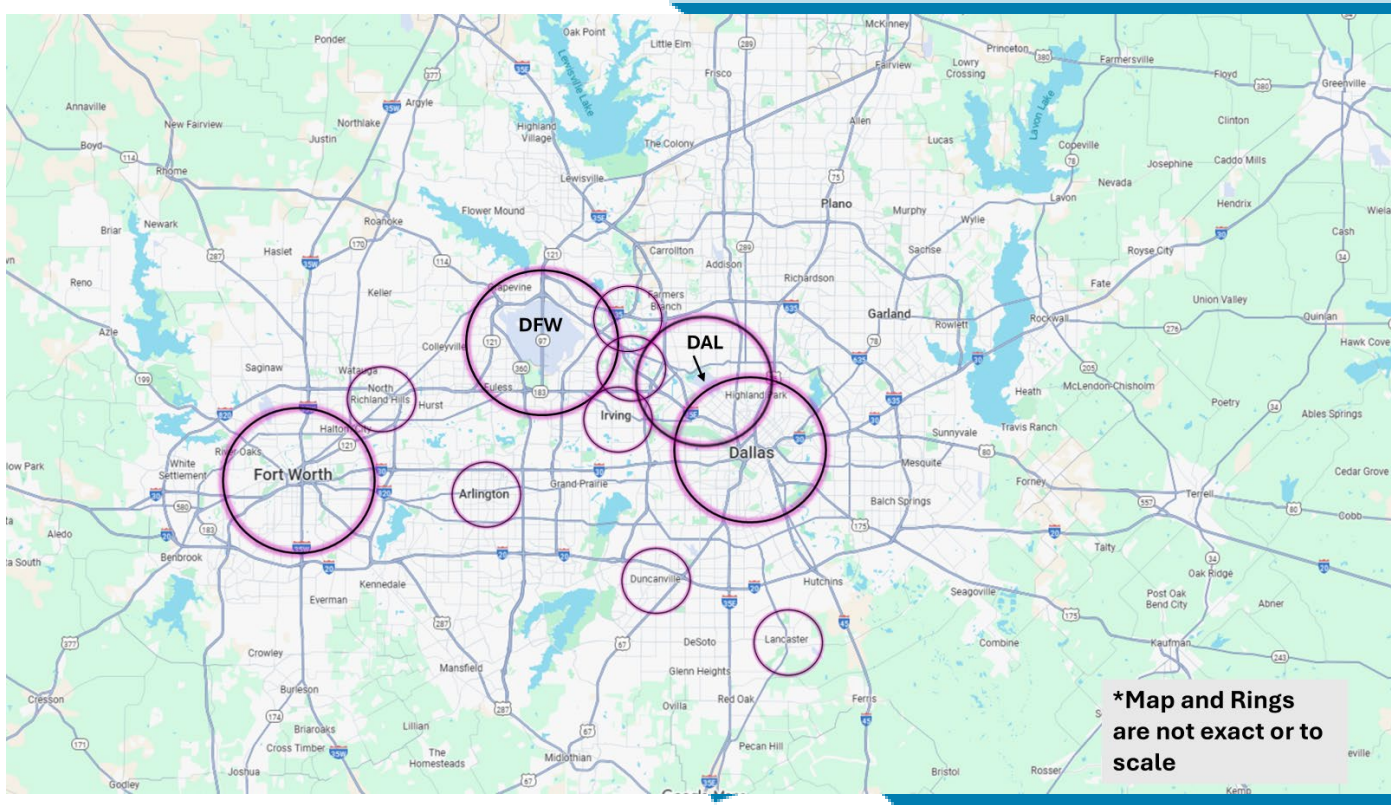
- **Purpose:** Create a region-wide, cooperative network of drone-detection systems that share awareness data while preserving local control.
- **Led by:** NCTCOG in coordination with cities, counties, airports, and public safety agencies.
- **Vendors/Partners:** Integration supported by Airspace Link and ATA Aviation through interoperable APIs.



Federated Drone Detection Network

Key Objectives

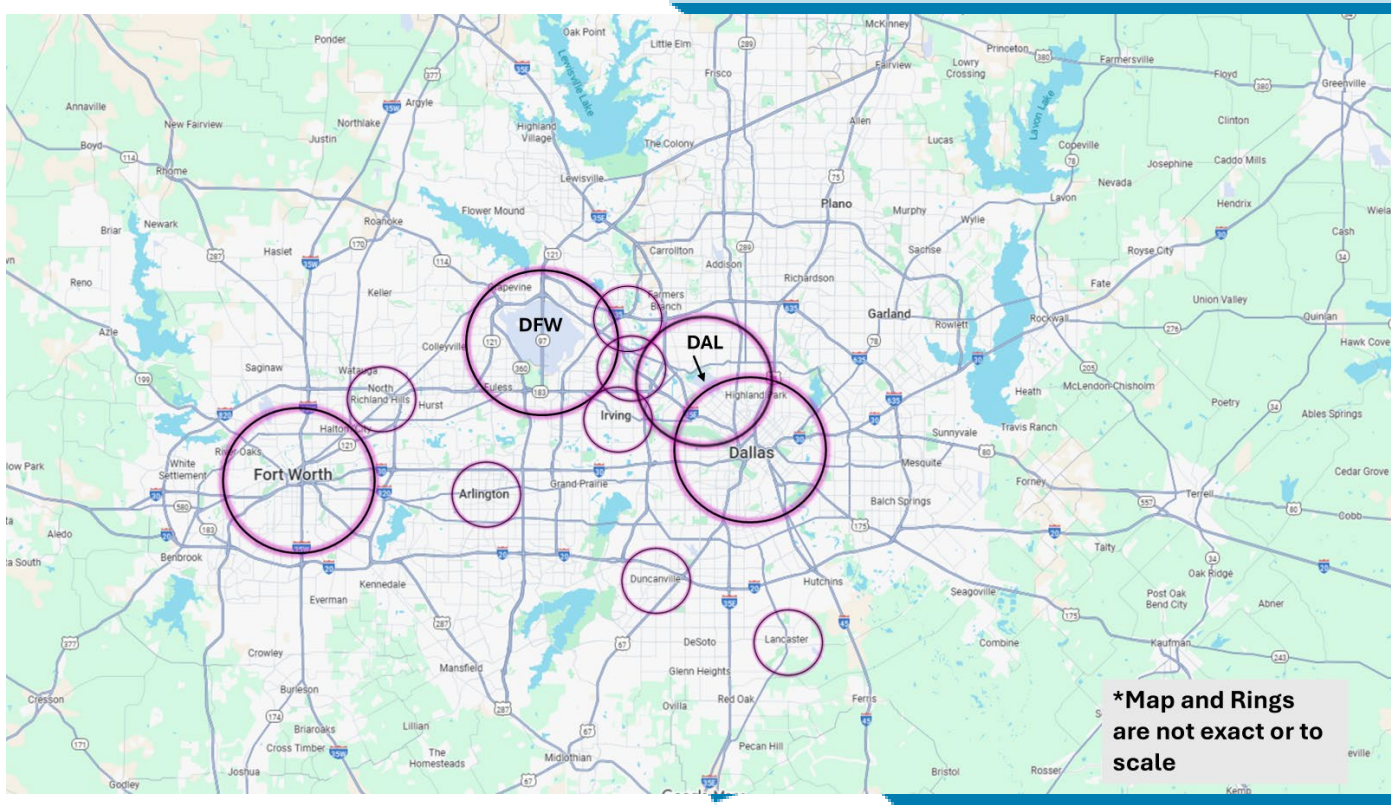
- **Expand Low-Altitude Awareness:** Link local detection systems (RF, radar, optical, acoustic) into a broader regional map.
- **Preserve Local Ownership:** Each jurisdiction maintains control of its own data while contributing selected, anonymized feeds.
- **Enhance Safety & Security:** Improve situational awareness for law enforcement, emergency response, and critical infrastructure protection.
- **Support Incident Response:** Enable regional coordination for intrusions, special events, or emergencies across city boundaries.
- **Standardized Interfaces:** Use ASTM-compliant data formats and APIs to ensure interoperability across multiple systems.



Federated Drone Detection Network

Benefits

- **Cost Efficiency:** Leverages existing city and agency investments rather than building a single centralized system.
- **Scalable Coverage:** Network can grow incrementally as new sensors or jurisdictions join.
- **Improved Coordination:** Provides a shared operating picture for mutual aid and event management.
- **FAA & UTM Alignment:** Supports ongoing FAA UTM Key Site activities and national policy development.
- **Foundation for AAM:** Establishes infrastructure and governance for future eVTOL and advanced air mobility operations.



FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION NORTH TEXAS REMOTE ID WORKSHOP

Since September 16, 2023, all drone pilots who are required to register their UAS must operate in accordance with the rule on Remote ID.

- Remote ID Rules - A requirement for your drone to have either an internal signal broadcasting your location, plus your drone's latitude, longitude, and heading, or an attached broadcast module sending the same data.
- Recognized Identification Areas (FRIAs) - A FRIA is a defined geographic area where drones can be flown without Remote ID equipment.

Federal Funding Opportunity – $500M Drone Detection Initiative

- **Executive Order:** Restoring American Airspace Sovereignty establishes a national framework to enhance UAS detection, tracking, and identification.
- **Funding Available:** Up to $500 million in new federal support for state, local, tribal, and territorial (SLTT) agencies to deploy drone-detection systems.
- **Program Alignment:** The North Texas Federated Drone Detection Network directly supports the Executive Order's goals for interoperability, coordination, and data sharing.

PRESIDENT DONALD J. TRUMP

The WHITE HOUSE

PRESIDENTIAL ACTIONS

RESTORING AMERICAN AIRSPACE SOVEREIGNTY

Executive Orders | June 6, 2025

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, it is hereby ordered:

Section 1. Purpose. Unmanned aircraft systems (UAS), otherwise known as drones, offer the potential to enhance public safety as well as cement America's leadership in global innovation. But criminals, terrorists, and hostile foreign actors have intensified their weaponization of these technologies, creating new and serious threats to our homeland. Drug cartels use UAS to smuggle fentanyl across our borders, deliver contraband into prisons, surveil law enforcement, and otherwise endanger the public. Mass gatherings are vulnerable to disruptions and threats by unauthorized UAS flights. Critical infrastructure, including military bases, is subject to frequent — and often unidentified — UAS incursions. Immediate action is needed to ensure American sovereignty over its skies and that its airspace remains safe and secure.

Sec. 2. Definitions. For the purposes of this order:

(a) the term "unmanned aircraft systems" or "UAS" has the meaning given in 49 U.S.C. 44801;

(b) the term "critical infrastructure" has the meaning given in 42 U.S.C. 5195c(e), and includes systems and assets in all of the designated critical infrastructure sectors identified in National Security Memorandum 22 of April 30, 2024 (Critical Infrastructure Security and Resilience) (NSM-22); and

Next Steps

- Document regional readiness through the Phase 2 Airspace Awareness Pilot.
- Develop a federal funding proposal highlighting technical maturity and inter-agency collaboration.
- Engage FAA, DHS, and USDOT liaisons to align on proposal timing and eligibility.

CONTACT US

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