



Connectivity meeting #4 UAS Coordination Technical Working Group

24 February. 2021

Tour de table

Organization	Contact
AIRT.NGO	Andy Jaques
AIRT.ngo (Airborne International Response Team)	Christopher Todd
GlobalMedic	Daniel Cyr
World Bank	David Guerin
Emergency.lu	Gilles Hoffmann
UNHCR	Min Sun
Ericsson	Lars Ruediger
UNICEF	Tautvydas Juskauskas
WFP	Omar Namamoui
WFP	Patrick McKay
WFP	Masa Sabbah
WFP	Jean Claude Atassa Laouwayi

Opening remarks by Patrick McKay welcoming everyone to fourth session of the connectivity group

As Google is shutting down their Loon project, we will not have a presentation from their side and this meeting will focus on the updates on UAS connectivity activities from WFP and group members, brainstorming topics for the next meetings and acceptance of the ToRs.

Updates on UAS connectivity activities

From WFPs side: WFP is been looking into what we call Flying COW, which is a tethered Wi-Fi hotspot. The plan was to use to for a mix of both respondent and beneficiaries. We presented the idea to WFPs Innovation accelerator that was accepted into the bootcamp, where we decided to aim WFP Flying COW

purely toward the beneficiaries. We are in the finalist list in the innovation accelerators and will keep everyone in the TWG updated.

Topics for the next Connectivity TWG meetings

Patrick: are we looking at how to use a drone as a tethered station for an antenna or are we looking at other types of UAS connectivity?

David: I was a judge at the Australian Outback challenge, which has been running for a couple of years now. The idea is to have an emergency stimulation and have a group of teams compete to win a prize. Nearly all the groups used connectivity drones and it was that when I was struck by the flexibility of such operation and the expand of range as we made it more difficult for the participants with the BSS laws. The next part is using drones as tethered, we haven't had any experience in that.

Andy Jacks from Ericsson: we are looking at a concept on connectivity after emergency or disaster impact and I'm interested to hear people's feedback on whether that would be useful or not. We are working with a couple of technology partners to put together solutions where we can dispatch and fly over an impacted area where cellular communication may be out. The challenge is that we don't have connectivity in real time and there is a delay, but we are looking a step in the meanwhile. Any idea on what challenges we might run into when we get further down in the process? I can share more details and get feedback offline.

Travi: interested in the C2 link continuity in low connectivity environment.

Patrick: there is three proposal to be part of the discussion in this TWG: ***C2 link in low connectivity environment***, then ***using connectivity technologies in UAS to aid in search and rescue activities***, and lastly connectivity for UTM.

Acceptance of the ToR:

Patrick: we will hold off finalizing the ToRs for the next meeting as the new proposed topics should be added.

Next TWG meeting is on the 24 of March 2021