



For Immediate Release

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Contact: Chuck Wilkins
Manager, Public Affairs
(703) 396-6304
cwilkins@aurora.aero

AURORA'S KEVIN SMEDLEY ELECTED PRESIDENT OF UNITE

MANASSAS, Va. Jan 12 –Aurora Flight Sciences announced today that Kevin Smedley, the company's UNITE Management Council Representative, has been elected president of the UNITE Alliance. The UAV National Industry Team (UNITE) is a coalition of leading Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) companies including Aurora Flight Sciences, AeroVironment, The Boeing Company, General Atomics Aeronautical Systems (GAAS), Lockheed Martin, and Northrop Grumman dedicated to enabling the routine operation of unmanned aircraft in the National Airspace System (NAS). Mr. Smedley succeeds Mr. Scott Dann of GAAS, UNITE's founding president.

As president, Mr. Smedley will work closely with UNITE member companies to promote new regulations to ease UAS certification processes, and enable qualified UAS to operate in the National Airspace System on a "file and fly" basis, similar to most general aviation aircraft. UNITE will advocate policy and build legislative support for these new regulations.

UNITE's key priorities are to gain immediate access to the NAS for national security missions and company research and development projects by working with the FAA and DoD to streamline and improve the Experimental Certification and Certificate of Operational Authority application processes. UNITE will also help shape the future NAS architecture for all classes of UAS.

"I look forward to representing the industry alliance in the pursuit of this important national endeavor," said Mr. Smedley. "It is important to the nation's interests that Unmanned Aircraft Systems be permitted to achieve their full potential, while maintaining the integrity of the NAS. Realizing the full potential of UAS would enable scientific advancements, improved airspace operational efficiency, enhanced national security, and significant domestic and international commercial opportunities. I want to extend thanks to Scott Dann for his excellent leadership of UNITE and for building a forceful and influential organization during his tenure as president."

Dr. John Appleby, Aurora's Vice President of Science Applications, added, "Aurora is very pleased Kevin was selected by his peers to lead the UNITE Alliance toward its ambitious goals. Kevin has our full support and commitment."

Mr. Smedley, a resident of Warrenton, Va., has more than 30 years of experience managing high value aerospace programs for US and International government and prime contractor customers. He has worked in all levels of engineering, program management and corporate management, and holds a bachelor's degree in aerospace and aeronautical engineering from the Polytechnic Institute of New York. Kevin is a licensed instrument rated pilot and a long-time member of the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association.

About UNITE

The UAV National Industry Team (UNITE) is an association of six leading U.S. aerospace companies with experience in manufacturing and operating unmanned air vehicles (UAVs). UNITE was originally formed to gain routine access to the National Airspace System for High Altitude Long Endurance (HALE) UAVs in less than five years. UNITE's new focus is on opening access to all classes of airspace. You can learn more about UNITE by visiting the group's website at www.unite.aero

About Aurora Flight Sciences

Aurora Flight Sciences is a leader in unmanned aerial systems technology for research, defense and homeland security organizations. For more than 15 years, Aurora Flight Sciences has expanded the limits of unmanned flight through the design and manufacture of innovative aircraft. Learn more about Aurora Flight Sciences by visiting the company's website at www.aurora.aero.

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Aurora Flight Sciences Corporation
www.aurora.aero

9950 Wakeman Drive
Manassas, VA 20110
703-369-3633 • Fax 703-369-0961

3000 East Benedum Industrial Drive
Bridgeport, WV 26330
304-842-8100 • Fax 304-842-8116

114 Airport Road
Starkville, MS 39759
662-325-8363 • Fax 662-325-3864