

TERMS OF REFERENCE
of the
INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP ON FACILITIES
TASK FORCE ON UNMANNED SYSTEMS

A. Official Designation

The Joint Subcommittee on Ocean Science and Technology (JSOST) Interagency Working Group on Facilities (IWG-F) hereby establishes the Task Force on Unmanned Systems (TFUS).

B. Purpose and Scope

The purpose of the TFUS is to advise, assist, and make recommendations to the IWG-F on policies, procedures, and plans relating to unmanned systems uses, upgrades, and investments. The TFUS will:

- Coordinate across the JSOST agencies to ensure an effective interface between sponsors and managers responsible for unmanned systems and resource managers at the federal, state, and local levels.
- Coordinate across the JSOST agencies to consolidate joint mission requirements and ensure that agency specific mission requirements are maintained through effective interface.
- Collaborate with other working groups of the JSOST, the Subcommittee on Integrated Management of Ocean Resources (SIMOR), the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources (CENR), and the Committee on Science (CoS) to ensure unmanned systems management and investments are based on the best input from the widest possible set of stakeholders.

The scope of the TFUS includes: Autonomous Underwater Vehicles (AUV), Gliders, Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS), Unmanned Surface Vessels (USV) and Lagrangian Platforms.

C. Functions

- Collect and review the operations, management methods, and capabilities of the growing federal usage of unmanned systems and, when appropriate, recommend common standards and lifecycle infrastructure approaches to assist federal oceanographic and atmospheric sponsors and facility managers;
- Provide a forum for the exchange of information on long-range plans regarding the acquisition, operation, or development of new capabilities of unmanned systems;

- Improve planning, coordination, and communication among federal sponsors and facility managers in the conduct of joint field programs and technology demonstrations utilizing unmanned systems;
- Address interagency governance and policy questions of unmanned systems;
- Monitor national and international oceanographic and atmospheric unmanned system activities for potential application to the federal facility mix; formulate and hold community workshops as needed.
- Serve as a single Federal point of contact for coordinating between operating agencies and legal entities at the state or federal level involving unmanned system usage.

D. Membership

All JSOST member agencies, including ex-officio members, may be represented on the TFUS. A Chair and two Co-Chairs shall be identified by the TFUS and approved by the IWG-F Co-Chairs. In the event that the TFUS does not identify a Chair and two Co-Chairs, the IWG-F Co-Chairs will appoint them. TFUS Chairs and Co-Chairs will be selected on a rotating basis for a 1-year term, renewable. The UNOLS, NSTC subcommittees, and other Federal organizations will be invited to participate as appropriate. Contractors under non-disclosure agreements may be utilized as needed. Decisions made by the Chairs of the TFUS will be vetted by the full IWG-F, by electronic means if necessary for timeliness.

E. Private Sector Interface

The TFUS may solicit and receive *ad-hoc* advice from non-Federal agencies, including but not limited to the UNOLS and the ORRAP, in a manner consistent with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA).

F. Termination Date

Unless renewed by the Co-Chairs of the IWF-F prior to its expiration, the TFUS shall terminate no later than Dec 31, 2010.

G. Determination

We hereby determine that the formation of the Task Force on Unmanned Systems is in the public interest in connection with the performance and duties imposed on the Executive Branch by law, and that such duties can best be performed through the advice and counsel of such a group.

Approved:

Robert Winokur
Oceanographer/Navigator of the Navy (Co-Chair, IWG-F)

Date

RADM Philip Kenul,
NOAA (Co-Chair, IWG-F)

Date