

# Operationalizing small Unmanned Aerial Systems (sUAS)



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***Abstract:*** Recent developments in small Unmanned Aerial Systems (sUAS) and associated sensor technologies have lowered the barrier to entry for non-aviators to observe and examine the environment in new and unique ways. While the availability of sUAS technology and sUAS-mountable sensors have created capabilities to dramatically increase data collection applications across a wide variety of disciplines, the body of knowledge necessary to support and

advance the collection activities is still in its nascent stages. To move forward and evolve quickly and effectively, this new domain space must construct, develop, and incorporate multi-disciplinary knowledge spaces across various communities of practice. The goal of the UAS Research Center is to help create global technical standards, examine and promulgate international best practices, and help conceptualize innovative operational techniques paired with advanced technologies so that small unmanned systems can move from oddity to ubiquity, to benefit mankind.

***Bio:*** Rick Lusk is the Founder and Director of the UAS Research Center at Oak Ridge National Laboratory. With more than 30 years of professional experience, he is an expert in designing and planning integrated technology platforms and managing their creation and transformation into comprehensive, authoritative, and intuitive decision support systems.

Before joining the lab, Lusk designed and developed multiple complex strategic technology, operation, and marketing plans for multinational businesses and U.S. government agencies. These include designing the first global client-server network for imagery analysis, managing the first implementation of international VOIP for telecommunications, and identifying and linking the technologies and businesses that built WebTV. His career has ranged from working at the MIT Media Lab, to providing business solutions to customers such as Jack Nicklaus Golf, Gary Player and Bankrate, to representing United States interests abroad.

A former Marine Corps officer, Lusk holds a BS in communications from the University of Idaho and an MBA from Boston University. He is a graduate of the National Defense University Advanced Management Program and is a federally certified enterprise architect and chief information officer. Additionally, he holds certificates in International Management from Sanyo Leadership School in Japan and in International Terrorism Studies from the University of St. Andrews in Scotland. Rick is also an ISO TAG member and UAS Expert for the USA, and has an FAA Remote Pilot Certificate with a small UAS rating.