

## U-Space

U-space is the ecosystem that the European Union as a whole is deploying to enable the safe and efficient traffic of drones, as well as their coexistence with manned aircraft. It is constituted as the set of providers, services and procedures that in a regulated and coordinated manner in Europe will be responsible for the management of traffic of unmanned aircraft (UAS) in certain airspaces.

Its purpose is to achieve the safe and automated integration of UAS to allow a large number of operations, many of them simultaneous, especially in low altitude airspace, in urban environments (UAM) and in harmony with the existing air traffic management system for conventional aviation. This is intended to enable and enhance the development of new markets and realise the potential for economic growth expected in the sector.

The Community regulatory framework for U-Space is as follows:

- **Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/664<sup>1</sup>** of 22 April 2021 on a regulatory framework for U-space.
- **Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/665<sup>2</sup>** of 22 April 2021 amending Implementing Regulation (EU) 2017/373 as regards requirements for air traffic management/air navigation service providers and other air traffic management network functions in airspace designated in controlled airspace.
- **Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/666<sup>3</sup>** of 22 April 2021 amending Regulation (EU) No 923/2012 as regards requirements for manned aviation operating in airspace U-space. The environment is supported by two types of service providers identified in Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/664: **U-Space Service Providers (USSP) and Common Information Service Providers (CISPs)**. These are the organisations that provide certain services and functions necessary for the safe and efficient management of UAS operations in U-Space airspace and the integration of UAS with the rest of the aviation system

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<sup>1</sup> Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/664 of 22 April 2021 on a regulatory framework for the U-space, OJ L 139, 23.4.2021, pp. 161–183, ELI: [http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg\\_impl/2021/664/oj](http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_impl/2021/664/oj)

<sup>2</sup> Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/665 of 22 April 2021 amending Implementing Regulation (EU) 2017/373 as regards requirements for providers of air traffic management/air navigation services and other air traffic management network functions in the U-space airspace designated in controlled airspace, OJ L 139, 23.4.2021, pp. 184–186, ELI: [http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg\\_impl/2021/665/oj](http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_impl/2021/665/oj)

<sup>3</sup> Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/666 of 22 April 2021 amending Regulation (EU) No 923/2012 as regards requirements for manned aviation operating in U-space airspace, OJ L 139, 23.4.2021, pp. 187–188, ELI: [http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg\\_impl/2021/666/oj](http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_impl/2021/666/oj)

## U-Space Service Providers

U-Space Service Providers (USSPs) aim primarily to facilitate secure, efficient and safe access to U-Space airspace for a large number of UAS through digital services and feature automation.

All UAS operations in U-Space airspace shall be subject to at least the following mandatory U-Space services:

- **Network Identification Service:** it enables continuous processing of UAS remote identification throughout the entire duration of the flight and provides remote identification of the UAS to authorised users.
- **Geoconsciousness Service:** it consists of providing information regarding the applicable operational conditions and airspace limitations, the relevant UAS geographical areas, or the temporary restrictions applicable to the use of airspace within U-Space airspace.
- **UAS Flight Authorisation Service:** it shall provide UAS operators with the authorisation to fly UAS for each individual flight, setting out the terms and conditions of that flight.
- **Traffic Information Service:** it consists of information on any other perceptible air traffic that may be close to the UAS's intended flight position or route.

In addition, UAS operations in U-Space airspace may be subject to the following voluntary U-Space services:

- **Weather Information Service:** provides weather information provided by trusted sources to maintain safety and support operational decisions of other U-Space services; and it provides the UAS operator with weather forecasts and real weather information before or during the flight.
- **Compliance Monitoring Service:** it allows UAS operators to verify whether they meet the established requirements and terms of the UAS flight authorisation.

## Common information service providers

Common Information Service Providers (CISPs) have as their main objective the dissemination of static and dynamic data that enables the provision of U-Space services for the management of unmanned aircraft traffic.

## Certification

In accordance with **Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/664**, BG CAA established the administrative procedures for the manner the applicant to apply

- U-Space Service Provider Certification (USSP)
- Certification of Common Information Service Provider (CISP)

The procedures contain the application form and required documentation for the demonstration of compliance with the certification requirements that the applicant must duly fill in to apply for certification as a USSP or CISP supplier or its subsequent modification.

In order to undertake the USSP and CISP provider certification process, it is necessary for the applicant to have the necessary systems and equipment (technological platform) to guarantee the provision of the services for which certification is requested. Likewise, this technological platform must have a sufficient degree of maturity to guarantee compliance with the applicable standards.

In order to plan and expedite the certification process, it is recommended that the applicant, prior to the submission of the application, hold coordination meetings with BG CAA.

In case an entity intends to provide services for U-space or wishes to be designated as the sole provider of general information services, it should apply for a certificate in accordance with Art. 14 of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/664.

To start the procedure, the applicant must declare its intentions in writing to DG CAA via e-mail [uas@caa.bg](mailto:uas@caa.bg) or on site at the front office of DG CAA. A preliminary meeting is scheduled within 7 days, at which the applicant will be informed of the procedure for issuing the certificate, the detailed requirements relating to the activities for which permission is requested, submission of an application and development of the necessary documentation.

Should the result of the meeting be found satisfactory and the applicant understands and accepts its obligations and guarantees that all resources are available or will be available at the time of approval, a formal application (submission of documents) by the applicant will follow.