

(For Immediate Release)

MEDIA STATEMENT

24 March 2015

South Africa invited to present draft regulations on Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems at an international ICAO Symposium

Midrand, Johannesburg, 24-03-2015. ICAO is hosting a Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS) Symposium from 23 – 25 March 2015. This event will bring together key partners from civil aviation authorities, international organisations and the civil aviation industry, including RPAS manufacturers and operators, as well as other aerospace stakeholders such as research organisations and academia.

South Africa has been nominated to present the draft regulations together with seven other states, amongst them the Czech Republic, Canada, France, the United Kingdom and the United States of America.

This opportunity will enable South Africa, as represented by the SACAA, to showcase to other states, Air Navigation Service Panels (ANSPs) and operators, how the development of draft RPAS regulations was achieved, and once approved how they will be applied.

This is a major milestone for South Africa as a state and is set to position us as thought leaders in the area of RPAS. Given the comprehensiveness of the current draft regulations, it is anticipated that the rest of the world will focus on South Africa for benchmarking purposes.

Notwithstanding the commitment of the SACAA in addressing the need for RPAS regulations, the use of this type of aircraft remains illegal on South African skies. Any operator who ignores this warning will face the full might of the law.

The SACAA is entrusted with regulating civil aviation safety and security as well as facilitating industry development. This milestone is evidence that the Regulator takes its

mandate seriously as the introduction of RPAS is a relatively new field in civil aviation activities and ensuring its safe introduction into the civilian air space is central to the existence of the SACAA.

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About the SACAA:

The South African Civil Aviation Authority ("SACAA") is a juristic body established in terms of the Civil Aviation Act, 2009 (Act No. 13 of 2009) ("the Act"). SACAA is governed and controlled by the Civil Aviation Authority Board ("the Board"). In terms of mandate, the SACAA is tasked with promoting and maintaining a safe, secure and sustainable civil aviation environment, by regulating and overseeing the functioning and development of the industry in an efficient, cost-effective, and customer-friendly manner according to international standards.

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