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AMAP's Transmittal Letter for the UAS Whitepaper

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AMAP

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Letter

AMAP's Transmittal Letter for the UAS Whitepaper

June 15, 2015

To: Arctic Council Senior Arctic Officials

Re: Request for Ratification of AMAP Expert Group on Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UASEG) White Paper

AMAP and the AMAP Expert Group on Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UASEG) hereby request your ratification of the attached AMAP UASEG's white paper: *Implementing Scientific Data Collection across the Arctic Oceanic Region Utilizing Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS)*. The UASEG was tasked with developing a best-practices document for High Seas UAS cross-Arctic scientific and search-and-rescue (SAR) operations.

The attached white paper represents a collaborative effort of the eight Arctic nations and contains a recommended path and protocol to encourage UAS operations in accordance with national regulations and in a manner that meets the applicable International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) provisions. The document has been circulated to all Arctic civil aviation authorities (CAAs) and to ICAO for comment. Their comments have been considered and are reflected in the attached final document for your review and use.

We believe that UAS cross-Arctic scientific and SAR operations adhering to the recommended practices contained in the attached white paper will ensure the safest possible outcome of each mission.

Our request of the Arctic Council is that the document be ratified as an international agreement reflecting best practices for UAS cross-Arctic scientific and SAR operations.

This is a prepublication version.

Sincerely,

Clifford Sweatte (UASEG Co-Chairs, US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA))
Rune Storvold (UASEG Co-Chairs, Northern Research Institute, Norway (Norut))
Martin Forsius (AMAP WG chair)
Lars-Otto Reiersen (AMAP Executive Secretary)