



UNMANNED SYSTEMS  
ASSOCIATION OF VIRGINIA

*Unmatched Innovation*

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## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Unmanned Systems Association of Virginia Launches to Promote Virginia as National Leader**

#### ***Founding Members Represent Aerial, Ground and Maritime Sectors of Industry***

**RICHMOND, Va.** – Based on a key recommendation from Virginia Governor Terry McAuliffe’s Unmanned Systems Commission, several leading companies in the unmanned systems industry have formed the Unmanned Systems Association of Virginia (USAV). USAV is a non-profit coalition focused on promoting a legal and regulatory framework that supports innovation, collaboration and growth in the unmanned systems industry in the Commonwealth.

The mission of USAV is to foster the growth of the unmanned systems industry in Virginia through advocacy efforts focused on economic and workforce development, financial incentives and a business-friendly regulatory environment.

Founding members represent aerial, ground and maritime sectors of the unmanned systems industry in Virginia. USAV will also actively recruit additional members over the coming months to join the organization, adding to its depth, strength and knowledge base. Founding members include:

- **Science Applications International Corp. (SAIC)**
- **Volkswagen Group of America**
- **Newport News Shipbuilding**
- **Dominion Virginia Power**
- **Raytheon**
- **Avineon**
- **Property Drone Consortium**
- **Clark Nexsen**
- **Lyft**
- **Hazon Solutions**

The association’s key priorities include promoting Virginia’s UAS test site, unmanned systems research and other resources; sharing information about grant opportunities for expansion of existing businesses or attracting new unmanned systems businesses; supporting legislation that fosters a business environment that is favorable to innovation and development of technology; supporting public and private programs that promote STEM education, workforce training and workforce development that may be beneficial to the unmanned systems industry; and promoting collaboration among entrepreneurial, existing technology and academic research entities.

Through advocacy efforts, USAV will work with Virginia policymakers on matters involving unmanned systems and coordinate with other stakeholders on critical policy initiatives. USAV will also coordinate with the McAuliffe

Administration, including Secretary of Technology Karen Jackson, Secretary of Transportation Aubrey Layne and Secretary of Commerce and Trade Todd Haymore to establish and promote industry opportunities available in the Commonwealth. Public affairs outreach will be provided by a combined team of professionals from both McGuireWoods Consulting and Williams Mullen.

USAV will be initially led by interim Executive Director, **Kevin Pomfret** – a prominent attorney and unmanned systems expert, and a Board of Directors comprised of individual representatives from member organizations. According to Pomfret, “It is anticipated that the 2017 legislative session will see a significant number of bills introduced that will impact unmanned systems and it is critical that Virginia remain competitive, not only to Virginia’s existing industry, but to those businesses that may wish to relocate here.”

**Governor Terry McAuliffe** stated: “Unmanned systems technology is the next generation of research and data analytics, with the potential to enable enormous efficiencies, and our investment into this technology gives Virginian companies the edge in competing in the global market. Having an association dedicated to this technology in Virginia will position our Commonwealth as a leader in the industry across the nation as we build the New Virginia Economy.”

According to **U.S. Senator Mark Warner**, “The unmanned systems industry is growing rapidly across the United States, and Virginia is in a unique position to seize on the economic opportunities from this emerging industry. Virginia’s highly skilled workforce, our experienced veterans returning to civilian life, and the cutting edge research performed at our universities and laboratories position the Commonwealth to serve as a regional and national leader for the unmanned systems industry. I am very, very pleased to see the industry come together to promote Virginia as a leader in this space.”

“We are honored to be a founding member in this ground-breaking association that brings together legislators and industry to deliver innovative ideas focused on developing unmanned systems,” said **Science Applications International Corp. (SAIC) CEO Tony Moraco**. “As a leading technology integrator, SAIC is focused on bringing these technologies to bear and we look forward to leveraging our expertise and talent in support of USAV.”

“The automobile, and even the very concept of individual mobility, is undergoing a profound transformation,” said **Volkswagen Group of America’s Director of State Government Relations, Nicole Barranco**. “This association can help ensure that Virginia, with its tradition of technology, research and transportation leadership, continues to grow its reputation as a business-friendly state by promoting a legal and regulatory framework that is open to technology and innovation.”

“The maritime domain is becoming an increasingly important segment of the unmanned systems industry,” said **Newport News Shipbuilding President, Matt Mulherin**. “Newport News has focused a great deal of time and talent in the unmanned maritime area and is pleased to be a founding member of a trade association that will support the growth of the entire industry in Virginia.”

For more information on joining USAV, please contact [info@unmatchedva.org](mailto:info@unmatchedva.org).

#### **About Unmanned Systems Association of Virginia (USAV)**

The Unmanned Systems Association of Virginia is a non-profit coalition focused on creating legislation and a regulatory framework that supports innovation, collaboration and growth in the unmanned systems industry in the Commonwealth. For more information, please visit [www.unmatchedva.org](http://www.unmatchedva.org).

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