

Drone Flight Operations To Improve as The Weather Company, an IBM Business, and AirMap Join to Deliver Real-time Hyperlocal Weather Data

Unmanned Aircraft To Gain Access to Precise, Real-Time Weather Data for Safer Flight

Andover, Mass., and Santa Monica, Calif - 03 Aug 2016: One of the largest private weather enterprises in the world, The Weather Company, an IBM Business (NYSE: [IBM](#)), announced today that they will be working with AirMap, a leading provider of low-altitude airspace management services for unmanned aircraft, to allow AirMap to deliver real-time hyperlocal weather data directly to drone operators. As drone technology moves toward increasingly sophisticated, autonomous operations, precise and accurate weather data will be critical for safe and efficient operations. Drone operators will be able to access the weather data from The Weather Company via AirMap's app for iOS and Apple Watch as well as AirMap's APIs for developers.

On August 29, 2016, drones will be cleared for takeoff in the United States. The Federal Aviation Administration recently published a new section of the Federal Aviation Regulations, [Part 107](#), that defines new rules for commercial drone flights. As part of the new regulations, remote pilots of unmanned aircrafts are required to be familiar with available weather information prior to flight departure.

"Part 107 is a major milestone in drone regulation for visual line-of-sight operations," **said Ben Marcus, CEO of AirMap and an airline transport rated pilot and flight instructor.** "The availability of real-time hyperlocal weather data from The Weather Company will help today's drone pilots avoid hazardous and severe weather, and will be absolutely critical for safe, efficient flight planning and operations of more autonomous, beyond visual-line-of-sight drones."

The Weather Company's forecasting platform produces precise weather forecasts every fifteen minutes for 2.2 billion locations worldwide. Drone operators will gain access to real-time data such as current and forecasted conditions, including temperature, precipitation, pressure, cloud cover, and more. This high-performance, cloud-based platform provides an average of 20 million forecasts daily.

"The Weather Company is a leader in the global aviation industry, and we are thrilled to work with AirMap to help lead the way in the emerging drone aviation market, which is a natural extension of the value we already provide every day to major airlines and aviation business worldwide," said **Mark Gildersleeve, president of business solutions at The Weather Company.** "As a result of this AirMap deal, we can help drone operators not only be in compliance with Part 107 regulations, but also be able to leverage precise and accurate hyperlocal weather data to help guide decision-making and help work towards the safety, efficiency, and performance of their unmanned aircraft."

ABOUT THE WEATHER COMPANY, AN IBM BUSINESS

The Weather Company, an IBM Business, is the world's largest private weather enterprise, helping people make informed decisions – and take action – in the face of weather. The company offers the most accurate, personalized and actionable weather data and insights to millions of consumers, as well as thousands of marketers and businesses via Weather's API, its business solutions division, and its own digital products from The Weather Channel (weather.com) and Weather Underground (wunderground.com).

The company delivers up to 26 billion forecasts daily. Its products include a top weather app on all major mobile platforms globally; the world's largest network of personal weather stations; a top-20 U.S. website; the seventh most data-rich site in the world; one of the world's largest IoT data platforms; and industry-leading business solutions.

Weather Means Business™. The world's biggest private weather enterprise brands in aviation, energy, insurance, media, and government rely on The Weather Company for data, technology platforms and services to help improve decision-making and respond to weather's impact on business. For more, visit theweathercompany.com.

ABOUT AIRMAP

AirMap is the world's leading provider of airspace information and services for unmanned aircraft, commonly known as drones. Developed by experts in drone technology, aviation, and policy, AirMap's cutting-edge technology transforms airspace below 500 feet to create an interconnected drone ecosystem. AirMap provides accurate, reliable, and trustworthy low-altitude navigational data and communication tools to the drone industry: inventors of drones & drone technology, drone operators, and airspace stakeholders. AirMap has a rapidly expanding global network of hundreds of partners and thousands of app users.

<https://uk.newsroom.ibm.com/2016-Aug-03-Drone-Flight-Operations-To-Improve-as-The-Weather-Company-an-IBM-Business-and-AirMap-join-to-Deliver-Real-time-Hyperlocal-Weather-Data>