



**MINISTRY OF BUSINESS,  
INNOVATION & EMPLOYMENT**  
HĪKINA WHAKATUTUKI

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# MBIE update

Ministry of Transport Drone Forum  
21 November 2019



# MBIE's role

- MBIE's purpose is to **grow New Zealand for all**.
- We are the Government's principal advisor for research, science and innovation, and economic development.
- We are supporting the MOT-led vision to enable a **thriving, innovative and safe** drone sector.
- This is an **R&D intensive sector** with spill-overs into a range of other sectors.
- We want to **position New Zealand as the location of choice** to test, develop and commercialise these technologies.



# Airspace Integration Trials



- Industry investment in R&D will be critical to achieve airspace integration.
- We are **partnering with industry** to accelerate technology development and provide a **clear pathway from testing to in-service operations**.
- The trials will generate evidence to inform **long-term policy decisions, regulatory practices, and skill, infrastructure and investment needs**.



Research &  
Development



Infrastructure  
& Technology



Funding &  
Investment



Regulation

# Airspace Integration Trials

- The programme will cover a portfolio of trials in a range of uses:
  - Passenger transport
  - Cargo transport
  - Agricultural applications
  - Hazard management/monitoring
- Zephyr Airworks has been announced as the first industry partner. We expect to be able to share more details of this trial in the coming months.
- We are beginning conversations with other potential partners.



# Supporting testing needs

- We want to facilitate opportunities to **safely test and trial** new UA technologies.
- We are beginning work to assess the nature and extent of demand for **dedicated civil and commercial UA testing environments** in New Zealand.
- We want to better understand:
  - the **needs and concerns** of both UA developers, and the broader aviation sector
  - whether there is a proactive role for government in supporting dedicated UA testing environments.



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**Contact us**

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