1. See https://www.cdt.org/blogs/harley-geiger/2703drone-countdown for more specific information on each of these milestones.

2. The FAA and others in government and industry generally refer to drones as “unmanned aerial systems” (UAS) or “unmanned aerial vehicles” (UAV).


4. See, id. “The FAA and the Department of Justice’s National Institute of Justice have established an agreement that meets the congressional mandate [‘to allow a government public safety agency to operate unmanned aircraft weighing 4.4 pounds or less’ under certain restrictions]. Initially, law enforcement organizations will receive a [certificate of authorization (COA)] for training and performance evaluation. When the organization has shown proficiency in flying its UAS, it will receive an operational COA. The agreement also expands the allowable UAS weight up to 25 pounds.”

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FAA Timeline for Integrating Government and Private Drones in the United States

1. FAA Act Passes
2. FAA changed COA periods from 1 yr to 2 yrs
3. Early integration of “safe” government & non-govt. UAS
4. FAA develops “comprehensive plan” to integrate non-government drones
5. FAA issues guidance for government drones
6. FAA must submit final version of comprehensive plan to Congress
7. Final rule proposed for non-government drones & notice of proposed rulemaking
8. Integration of non-government drones
9. Final standards/rule issued for government & non-government drones