

PMA-263 Tactical Resupply UAS Prize Challenge Questions & Answers

Question #1: Do you know how many prototypes or production units might be purchased by the Government sponsor after the prize challenge?

Answer #1: The Government is still evaluating future prototyping and procurement strategies, which will be informed by the results of this prize challenge. However, the ultimate fielded capability may potentially include up to 315 air vehicles over the next ten years.

Question #2: On the 1st flight, will the cargo be detached at the delivery point, 5 km out? So, the return flight is without cargo?

Answer #2: Yes, the cargo will be detached at the delivery point, so the return flight is without cargo. The cargo may be detached manually or automatically.

Question #3: Is the landing point in the 1st flight set with GPS, or do we need a precision landing system with a transponder at the landing site?

Answer #3: We only require automated landing, meaning the air vehicle can land itself at a designated position without an operator manually landing the vehicle. The method through which this is accomplished is purposefully undefined so as to allow the broadest range of solutions Industry can offer.

Question #4: To confirm, the air vehicle must complete each **roundtrip** flight without refueling or recharging. Correct?

Answer #4: Correct. Each ROUNDTRIP flight must complete without refueling or recharging. You will be permitted to refuel/swap batteries in between the separate flight events.

Question #5: For the 2nd flight, do we set the distance we will fly?

Answer #5: Yes, in the first flight, the Government will set the distance and each competitor will determine the weight of their cargo payload, which will be detached at the delivery site. In the second flight, the Government will set the cargo payload weight and each competitor will demonstrate the maximum distance over which their system can deliver that weight. During the second flight, the cargo will be detached at the mid-point of the flight. For example, if the total distance of flight #2 is 30km, the air vehicle will carry the cargo for 15 km, land and detach the cargo, then fly for 15 km without the cargo before landing.

Question #6: What type of course is the 2nd flight on? Is it a circular track, or an open-ended open country course?

Answer #6: All three flights will be on the same range, which has a maximum range of 13km in a direct line. However, the full range space can be utilized to demonstrate a longer flight path (with multiple waypoints/back-and-forth flight pattern) if needed. We anticipate that the courses will be designed in a manner which minimizes the effects of wind from a particular direction. Those competitors invited to participate in the Fly-Off will receive more specific information regarding the range space and the courses.

Question #7: Can you comment on the launch and recovery surface conditions?

Answer #7: The range at which the Fly-Off will be held does have a paved runway at the launch site and improved areas at the delivery site, but the majority of the range is unimproved desert. Due to the anticipated Concept of Employment for this capability, solutions need to be runway independent.