European Commission

TAKING TO THE SKIES:
ASSESSING THE RISK OF UNMANNED AREAL VEHICLES

Project name:
Skyfall: LEA training for counter-UAV

Purpose:
Develop a European counter UAV training programme for incident-based UAV interception

AT A GLANCE

Geographical coverage:
Antwerp & Bucharest

Project coordinator:
Politiezone van Antwerpen

Estimated budget:
€ 1 146 369

EU contribution:
90 % co-funded by the European Union

Type of funding:
Internal Security Fund – Police (ISFP)

Start date:
January 2019

End date:
December 2020

What are the threats posed by drones?

As unmanned areal vehicles (UAVs), or 'drones' as they are more commonly known, are becoming more and more common in daily life, they are not always seen as a security threat. In fact, they should not be seen as a security threat, but, unfortunately, there are those out there who will use any means necessary to inflict harm on others. A recent example is the grounding of aircraft at Gatwick airport in the UK. This caused widespread disruption to flights across Europe, all with a minimum amount of effort.

As a terrorist attack in which weaponised drones are used is no longer unlikely, European Law Enforcement Agencies are moving to increase their readiness and response levels in order to make sure that the citizens of Europe remain safe from such threats. The aim of Skyfall is to develop a European counter unmanned aerial vehicle training plan that will allow for law enforcement to basically disable drones that pose a threat. The training will focus on where and when to intercept a drone and how to ensure a safe outcome from such interceptions. As with any emergency situation, it will all depend on the situation; an immediate interception will not always prove to be the best solution as drones can be weaponised using a variety of weapons, such as improvised explosive devices. The training plan will allow for law enforcement to refine, test and train for all possible threats where a drone could be used as a weapon.

What is currently being done?

There are already a number of products available that can be used to detect, identify and destroy drones. However, as tests and demonstrations by law enforcement agencies have shown, there is still no one-size-fits-all solution.

Most of the products available on the market are still very complicated and cannot always be deployed fast enough in order to address an emergency situation. As a result, this project aims to identify the best systems that can physically bring down a drone in a controlled and safe way.

ISF POLICE

Migration and Home Affairs

What does the project hope to achieve?

In order to achieve the largest impact possible, two training sessions will take place where those who are familiar with the technology will be given the resources to enable them to train others. This will make sure that all EU law enforcement agencies have the necessary skills and knowledge to counter an unmanned aerial vehicle attack, while at the same time be able to train others within their organisation. This will allow more people to be trained without the need for others to organise the training sessions.

The training will help develop and deploy an interception plan that will be designed around the very unique threats that drones can pose. The plan itself will not just be about physically stopping the drones, but also what to do in order to make sure the public remains safe from harm. That is, after all, the whole reason for developing this project: ensure the safety of all EU citizens against such threats.

KEY OBJECTIVES:

To create an unified EU drone threat risk assessment;

To provide an analysis of the most appropriate 'off-the-shelf' counter-drone solutions available;

To conduct two training courses for EU law enforcement agencies on how to safely intercept unmanned aerial vehicles that pose a threat.

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