



News Release

For Immediate Release

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Community invited to Workhorse Aerospace Demonstration November 9 in Williston

Williston N.D. – Williston Economic Development has announced the community is invited to a Workhorse Aerospace demonstration on Tuesday, November 9, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the former Sloulin Field International Airport hangar. TrainND Northwest and Vantis will also participate.

Workhorse Aerospace, a division of [Workhorse Technologies](#) in Loveland, Ohio, is designing and working towards FAA type certification of its small Unmanned Aerial System (sUAS) called the [HorseFly](#). The primary mission for the HorseFly UAS is small package delivery, focusing on the market for 10 lbs. delivered up to 10-miles.

"We are very excited to visit the week of November 8th to further explore flight testing opportunities and to demonstrate the HorseFly," said Mike Gerdes, Manager of Regulatory Compliance of Workhorse Aerospace. "Our demonstrations for the week will be very local in nature, showing the capabilities of the Horsefly to deliver various packages, dropping them at a nearby location and returning to the launch point."

Workhorse has been working with the Northern Plains UAS Test Site (NPUASTS) to partner in programs such as Vantis and eventually Beyond Visual Line of Sight (BVLOS) operations. After a recent trip to northwest North Dakota, Workhorse determined that Williston and Watford City would be ideal locations to operate and test the HorseFly as part of our type certification process.

"We were impressed by the hospitality of both cities and the outstanding support for UAS that the communities and the State of North Dakota provides. Our intent is to begin full durability and reliability testing in the Spring 2022 in Williston and Watford City," said Gerdes.

NDUASTS and TrainND will also be involved in the demonstration. Mike Casey, Project Manager of Northern Plains UAS Test Site said the event will showcase the future of drone technology.

"We will demonstrate the use case of package delivery in the Williston area and determine the possibility of long-term operations in Williston," said Casey.

TrainND Northwest, a division of Williston State College, will display its latest expansion for technical training into Unmanned Aerial Systems or drones.

"In April of 2022 ASCENT Unmanned Aeronautical Academy (ASCENT UAA) will start its first cohort of students to be trained in BVLOS operations," said Kenley Nebeker, Regional Director of TrainND Northwest. "This training will be key in preparing the future workforce of North Dakota and even the nation for the endless possibilities that are becoming available as BVLOS flight is made available for commercial use."

The public is invited to the demonstration/open house on Tuesday, November 9 from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. at the former Sloulin Field International Airport hangar in Williston and Wednesday, November 10 in Watford City.