



The Future of UAVs in Canada

Presenter: Eric Edwards, Chair, UVS Canada (Unmanned Vehicle Systems)

Eric has been active in the field of unmanned aircraft since 1986.

He has led the development of onboard flight control and payload control systems in several UAS programs ranging from micro-air vehicles to large, high-altitude, long-endurance aircraft. He is highly engaged with the rapid evolution of the commercial UAS sector, with an increasing focus on business management and investment.

Eric was an active industry participant in Transport Canada's first UAV Working Group from 2006 to 2007, which explored the changes required to the Canadian Air Regulations to introduce UAVs into civil airspace. In 2008 he was an invited member of the second working group that overhauled the SFOC process. Subsequently, he represented Canada's industry sector in a steering committee that established the priorities and roadmap for regulatory evolution in Canada. As of 2010, he is participating in Transport Canada's UAV Systems Program Design Working Group that will formalize the regulatory changes.

Eric holds a couple of degrees in aerospace engineering from the University of Toronto. He is president of Xiphos Systems Corp. of Montreal, which provides electronics and software for specialized space missions and unmanned aircraft. He joined the Board of UVS Canada in 2007 and has served in several positions. He is the current Chairman of the Board, elected in 2011.