

## Latitude 38 UAV Team

### A message to our sponsors as we head into the 2010 UAV Outback Challenge.

Hi there everyone,

20.09.2010

Just wanted to give you an update on where we are in our preparation for the UAV Outback Challenge, which is being contested next week at Kingaroy Airport, Queensland.

The final itinerary has been decided for the event and there is a slight change from what was originally issued.

The UAV Search and Rescue teams' scrutineering day is still on Monday the 27 Sept, and the first competition flight day is still on Tuesday 28th, but the second competition day is now to be the Wednesday 29Sept. (Not Thurs as previously published). Flight days will start at 6am as each team has 90 mins in which to complete the challenge.

As you may know we have successfully passed the 'Deliverable 2' stage, but 9 teams didn't make the cut there, so the competition was down to 12 teams.

Since then one more team has dropped out, so as far as I know there are only 11 teams still in.

Preparation for us is going well, in the last few weeks we have achieved....

- Clear digital video transmission to 22km distance, with the plane at 200m altitude.
- Radio data modem communications to the same 22km distance
- Ground based run test simulation for a period of 2x what is needed for the UAV challenge
- Ground based 'hardware-in-loop' (H.I.L.) simulator tests proving all automated controls were working as expected.
- Fully autonomous practice flights, in the air 30 minutes at a time, completely under autopilot control whilst tracking between waypoints.
- Flight tested our geofence termination system which has proven to be rock solid
- Practiced tracking a ground based landmark from the air via video and dropping the bottle down to it.

So we have come a long way from last year, when we didn't quite make it to the competition. We have finished flight testing now and will be consolidating our game plan over the next few days. On Friday this week we head up to Kingaroy to prepare for the competition.

I'd like to take the opportunity to once again thank you all for your contributions, sponsorship and support of our campaign in this year's UAV Outback Challenge.

I am confident that given the flights we have already performed in practice, that we can re-create those flights at Kingaroy and do well in the competition. We couldn't have achieved the milestones in the list above without your generous support. It is very much appreciated.

Our plane is covered in the insignia of all the companies that have supported us, and we will be spruiking your praises to all whom are interested, and anyone else that will listen.

This competition gets national and international print and online media exposure in aviation and UAV publications and some local TV media coverage as well. Now it's our turn to return the favour and get as much exposure as we can for the companies that supported us.

Kind Regards,

Roland Schreier and Paul Campbell, Latitude38 UAV Team.