

Eisenhower State Office Building
700 SW Harrison
Topeka, KS 66603



phone: 785-296-3585
fax: 785-296-0287
www.ksdot.org

Richard Carlson, Secretary

Sam Brownback, Governor

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For more information:

Brianna Landon
785.291.3956
KDOT.Media@ks.gov

Merrill Atwater
785.296.2553
Merrill.Atwater@ks.gov

KDOT unites with strategic partners for UAS

The Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) Division of Aviation visits Dallas, TX this week for the largest gathering of Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) industry leaders in the world at the Association of Unmanned Vehicle Systems International's (AUVSI's) Xponential 2017. Over 7000 industry professionals and 850 exhibitors unite to participate in a 3 day workshop and exhibition.

"This is great opportunity to showcase Kansas as a leader in UAS, continue the growth of this segment and foster strong relationships in UAS," said KDOT Director of Aviation, Merrill Atwater.

"Xponential allows us to highlight the outstanding talent and expertise we have in Kansas. There's an obvious reason we are called the 'Air Capital of the World,'" he added.

KDOT Director of UAS, Bob Brock stated, "Xponential is an ideal venue for established aviation leaders from Kansas to meet the UAS industry and continue our rich history in aviation.

Kansas is building on its established leadership in aviation, working in conjunction with in-state partners to promote the UAS industry, including:

- Kansas Department of Agriculture
- Kansas Department of Commerce
- Kansas State University
- Greater Wichita Partnership
- Salina Community Economic Development Office
- University of Kansas

Kansas Aviation activity accounts for \$20.6 billion in economic impact. Over 700 aerospace and aviation companies live and work together in the Sunflower State. Ninety-two percent (92%) of

Kansas airports support flight training and over 60% have aviation outreach programs. Aviation activity supports over 91,000 high-paying jobs in the state.

More than 18 years of active UAS research – including one of the first UAS Bachelor’s degrees in the country – add to Kansas’s industry leadership. The state’s rich aviation history is built on a century of aircraft production. Over 73% of the world’s general aviation fleet is manufactured in Kansas.

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