

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 1388

To authorize the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to enter into contracts to demonstrate or validate technology related to the integration of unmanned aircraft systems into the national airspace system, and for other purposes.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 1, 2023

Mr. HOEVEN (for himself and Mr. WARNER) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

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## A BILL

To authorize the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to enter into contracts to demonstrate or validate technology related to the integration of unmanned aircraft systems into the national airspace system, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “UAS Integration Re-  
5 search Act of 2023”.

1 **SEC. 2. UAS INTEGRATION RESEARCH CONTRACTS.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall enter  
3 into contracts to demonstrate or validate technology re-  
4 lated to the integration of unmanned aircraft systems into  
5 the national airspace system.

6 (b) TOPICS OF INTEREST.—The Administrator shall  
7 identify topics of interest related to the integration of un-  
8 manned aircraft systems into the national airspace includ-  
9 ing, but not limited to, the following:

10 (1) Detect and avoid capabilities.

11 (2) Beyond visual line of sight operations.

12 (3) Operation of multiple unmanned aircraft  
13 systems.

14 (4) Unmanned aircraft systems traffic manage-  
15 ment.

16 (5) Command and control.

17 (6) Safety standards for unmanned aircraft sys-  
18 tems and associated element ground and air sys-  
19 tems.

20 (c) SOLICITATION.—The Administrator shall solicit  
21 proposals from applicants who—

22 (1) describe a project that relates to a topic of  
23 interest described in subsection (b);

24 (2) demonstrate technical merit; and

25 (3) involve a contract with a test range.

1 (d) AWARDS.—The Administrator shall make con-  
2 tract awards based on the following:

3 (1) An evaluation of a proposal, including its—

4 (A) relevance to a topic of interest de-  
5 scribed in subsection (b);

6 (B) degree of technical merit; and

7 (C) cost and price information.

8 (2) Availability of funds.

9 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is  
10 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section,  
11 \$12,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2024 through 2028.

12 (f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

13 (1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Adminis-  
14 trator” means the Administrator of the Federal  
15 Aviation Administration.

16 (2) UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEM.—The term  
17 “unmanned aircraft system” has the meaning given  
18 that term in section 44801(12) of title 49, United  
19 States Code.

20 (3) TEST RANGE.—The term “test range” has  
21 the meaning given that term in section 44801(10) of  
22 title 49, United States Code.

1 **SEC. 3. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR UNMANNED AIR-**  
2 **CRAFT TEST RANGES.**

3 Section 44803(h) of title 49, United States Code, is  
4 amended by striking “September 30, 2023” and inserting  
5 “September 30, 2028”.

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