



## CASE STUDY

### Kansas Department of Transportation launches statewide “unmanned traffic management” initiative to support commercial drone operations

A new collaboration between the **Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT)** and airspace management platform **AirMap** is deploying technology for unmanned traffic management, or UTM, across the state of Kansas.

The initiative will create a digital infrastructure capable of communicating local, safety-critical information to drone operators about conditions in the surrounding airspace and on the ground. By implementing technologies that will one day be part of a nationwide UTM framework, Kansas is the first U.S. state to take a proactive approach to protecting the privacy, safety, and security of Kansas residents - while empowering drone entrepreneurship statewide.

According to PricewaterhouseCoopers, commercial drones will create more than \$127 billion in economic benefits and 100,000 jobs over the next several years – presenting tremendous opportunities for Kansas and other U.S. states. The KDOT-AirMap partnership will foster a thriving drone economy with the potential to contribute billions in economic impact and create thousands of jobs in the state.

The KDOT-AirMap partnership will make the AirMap platform available to state agencies, airports, and colleges and universities, deploying technology that is capable of:

- Delivering safety-critical information from state and local agencies to drones for situational awareness and flight planning
- Facilitating collaboration, communication, and data exchange between state and local authorities and drones and their operators
- Fostering public awareness about drone regulations and airspace requirements
- Automating airspace notification and authorization at Kansas airports
- Demonstrating sophisticated solutions that safeguard public safety and personal privacy, including technologies for geofencing and remote identification
- Enabling high-scale and complex operations beyond visual line of sight

The UTM initiative represents the next step in Kansas’ long history of aviation innovation, allowing the state to mobilize drones for disaster recovery, search and rescue, agriculture, construction, package delivery, and other community benefits.

By opening Kansas skies for sophisticated drone operations and deploying AirMap airspace management technology across the state, Kansas will be uniquely positioned to capture a significant share of the drone opportunity.