



**FEMA**

July 6, 2020

Kevin Stanton  
Executive Director  
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security  
10 Park Plaza Suite 3720 A  
Boston, MA 02116

Dear Director Stanton:

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Grant Programs Directorate (GPD) has reviewed your request on behalf of the Massachusetts State Police to purchase nine Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) using \$99,011 of Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) – State Homeland Security Program (SHSP) funding, award number EMW-2019-SS-00018. The proposed UAS will provide increased situational awareness during special events, such as the Boston Marathon and the Independence Day Celebration, additional capabilities for monitoring Critical Infrastructure and Key Resources, and for search and rescue missions. The equipment meets the requirements detailed in program guidance and is hereby approved for uses consistent with the terms of the HSGP – SHSP award.

This letter does not constitute an endorsement of any particular vendor, and FEMA reminds you that all grant-funded procurements must be executed in a manner compliant with Federal procurement standards at 2 C.F.R. §§ 200.317 – 200.326. For recipients that use HSGP funds for UAS, FEMA advises that there is a general privacy concern related to the use of this equipment if the data the devices collect is transmitted to servers not under the control of the operator. It has been reported that some manufacturers of UAS encrypt data and send that data to servers outside the United States. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Privacy Office suggests the recipient fully explore data transmission and storage issues with vendors to reduce the possibility of data breaches.

As a reminder, per the Grant Programs Directorate Information Bulletin No. 426, Section III.B.6 (Nov. 1, 2017), and the Authorized Equipment List, Item #03OE-07-SUAS, licensing, registration fees, insurance and all ongoing operational expenses are the responsibility of the recipient or local units of government and are not allowable under these grant programs. In using the UAS, recipients and subrecipients must adhere to their policies and procedures to safeguard individuals' civil rights and civil liberties. This approval does not constitute an endorsement of the non-Federal entity's policies and procedures for the use of the UAS. Any future UAS equipment requests must also be submitted to GPD for prior approval. Please contact your Preparedness Officer, Dennis Donehoo, at (202) 536-7374 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stacey Street".

Stacey Street  
Director  
Office of Grants Administration

Attachments: NRMC – Cybersecurity Best Practices for Operation Commercial Unmanned Aircraft Systems.pdf  
Industry Alert – Chinese Manufactured UAS (20 May 2019).pdf  
OCIA – Cybersecurity Risks Posed by Unmanned Aircraft Systems.pdf

Cc: W. Russell Webster, Regional Administrator, Region I  
Kerry L. Thomas, Director, Preparedness Grants Division (PGD)  
Vida Morkunas, Regional Grants Division Director, Region I  
Dennis Donehoo, Preparedness Officer, PGD