

THE SOCIETY OF EXPERIMENTAL TEST PILOTS STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES

SOP - 4-XX
DATE- 9-01-17
REV

SUBJECT: MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE GUIDELINES FOR UAS APPLICATIONS
AUTHORITY: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

I. GENERAL

The Membership Committee will evaluate each application to determine if the applicant has met the requirements for initial membership in accordance with SOP 4-02 and SOP 4-4. Applications for membership by UAS pilots will follow those guidelines, definitions and requirements in all applicable respects however, those applications are limited to Associate Member. Additionally, the membership committee is provided the following guidance:

1. Flight testing of UAS which are pilot-in-the-loop systems can be considered qualifying flight test experience. Specifically, the pilot must exercise control over the flight path and operating parameters through some phases of flight. This is not to imply that the pilot must exercise control throughout all phases of flight. The UAS must feed information directly to the pilot for control of the vehicle (a cue on the visual display for example) or may automatically control the vehicle with pilot consent (an autoland system for example). Control of the flight path of forward firing ordnance under test conditions for the acquisition of engineering data could be considered qualifying experience. Pilot control of the UAS does not depend on the means of input (keyboard, mouse, control stick, or other inceptor).
2. Qualifying experience for a UAS requires involvement in an organized flight test program. An organized program should consist of detailed engineering design, test planning discipline, safety involvement, documented test procedures, data acquisition planning, and post-test reporting. Each application must be evaluated by the committee to determine that the applicant's UAS and UAS Flight Test program meets the intent of the Board of Directors [The intent is to prevent applications from owners of personally modified quad copters or such]
3. Flights conducted solely to provide an environment or conditions, i.e., as a sensor platform for the testing and/or development of equipment which are unrelated to the test aerospace vehicle, shall not be considered as qualifying experience.