



THE SOCIETY OF EXPERIMENTAL TEST PILOTS

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SETP Members:

Recent years have seen exponential growth in the Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) segment of the aerospace world. Understanding the importance and need for professional, disciplined flight testing of these aircraft, several SETP recognized test pilot schools have not only incorporated UAV testing into their curriculum but have also established courses that graduate UAV experimental test pilots.

Due to the increased flight test activity in the UAV community, the SETP Board of Directors discussed at length the pros and cons of including UAV test pilots as members in our Society. Some thought that this type of change would be rejected out of hand and would serve only to inflame an emotional response to the suggestion. Others felt that the subject was important enough to amend our Constitution. The debate ended with a decision to conduct a statistically relevant, sample vote of a proposed amendment. The sample ballot was sent to 100 randomly selected members of the Society of all grades. The results of the voting showed that a significant majority of members (75%) were in favor of allowing UAV test pilots Associate Membership in the Society. Based on that result the Board voted unanimously to send the proposed Constitutional amendment to a full membership vote.

To be clear, the change would only allow UAV experimental test pilots to join the Society as Associate Members. It will NOT allow them to achieve the grade of Member, Associate Fellow or Fellow. As an Associate Member they would NOT be able to vote in elections, hold an elected office or vote on any future constitutional amendments. In short, the governance and leadership of the Society will NOT change as a result of this amendment.

It is also important to underscore that, upon approval, the Board of Directors will provide clear guidance to the membership committee to ensure the prospective AM's meet the highest standards, consistent with those set forth for manned aircraft. In the same way that the test pilot of a homebuilt experimental aircraft does not necessarily qualify for membership, neither would someone who tests their own quadcopter or other small UAV. I would like to thank everyone involved for their time, dedication and passion towards this important issue. I ask you to please read the proposal and arguments carefully prior to casting your ballot.

Voting on this proposal will be ended on 14 September 2017. Thank you in advance for your time in this important matter.

Sincerely,

Todd "Leif" Ericson
President, SETP