

## Media Release

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# Steve Pennington, Retired Maj. Gen James Poss to speak at UAS Midwest in August

**NEW ORLEANS**— Retired U.S. Air Force Maj. Gen. James Poss, Executive Director of ASSURE, and Steve Pennington, Director of Bases, Ranges, and Air Space for the U. S. Air Force and Executive Director of the Policy Board on Federal Aviation, will be two of the keynote speakers at UAS Midwest Aug. 16 and 17 at the Dayton Convention Center in Dayton, Ohio.

The slate of keynote speakers for the conference will be released over the course of the next few weeks, and will feature a mix of experts from the military, private industry, and academia.

“We have a strong schedule of speakers for UAS Midwest, one that reflects our efforts to broaden the focus beyond Ohio,” said Maurice McDonald, Executive Vice President of Aerospace and Defense for the Dayton Development Coalition.

Dr. Ronald Storm, chief scientist of advanced technology for The Perduco Group and an adjunct professor in aviation at Sinclair Community College, will also speak.

Looking around the exhibit hall at AUVSI XPONENTIAL this year, Storm said you can see the UAS industry following the same trajectory as other industries, especially ones that began with a push to military commercialization.

“Five years ago, this place was filled people selling fixed wings to the military, then the next year it was quad copters,” said Dr. Storm, who came to AUVSI as part of the State of Ohio team. “Now the evolution of what’s happening, you see all the little guys selling commercialized technology off the shelf. Everyone thought the big companies with large vehicles would lead the future, but it’s the low cost little guys that are currently being adopted by the masses”

UAS Midwest offers unique opportunities for networking with government, industry and academia, as well as respected, upper-level expert speakers. Dayton’s proximity to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base encourages substantial attendance from the base.

Formally known as the Ohio UAS Conference, the new name of UAS Midwest reflects a broader regional focus for this year’s conference. The conference will again feature Beyond the Booth

presentations, opportunities to network with key industry leaders, technical sessions and an expanded exhibit hall.

This year's event will work to establish UAS community partnerships between representatives from government, industry and academia. Topics will include:

- Requirements for access into the National Airspace System (NAS)
- Technologies associated with enabling UAS applications
- Recent developments within the research and academic community
- Integration of UAS into the NAS
- Advancement of technology and initiatives supporting UAS industry development
- Governmental updates
- Autonomy
- Modeling and simulation
- Manufacturing
- UAS regulations and law
- First responders
- Precision agriculture

A Call for Abstracts for afternoon technical session presentations is open through June 1.

The conference takes place the same week as the Unmanned Systems Summit hosted by The Ohio State University and Sinclair Community College's National UAS Training and Certification Center at Sinclair's Campus in Dayton, Ohio.

For more information on the UAS Midwest conference, visit <http://uasmidwest.org/index.html>. To learn more about the requirements for technical session presentations, visit [http://uasmidwest.org/pages/abstracts\\_rules.html](http://uasmidwest.org/pages/abstracts_rules.html).

For more information on the Unmanned Systems Summit, visit <http://workforce.sinclair.edu/focus/unmanned-aerial-systems/unmanned-systems-academic-summit/>.

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**The State of Ohio** has unmatched resources, capabilities and opportunities for the UAS community, including UAS training, manufacturing, world-class R&D, systems integration, data analytics, and operational ranges. We offer an exceptional environment for government, industry and academic collaboration. Come see why you should "Fly Ohio."



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**The Dayton Development Coalition (DDC)** is the leading economic development organization for the 14-county Dayton region. Working closely with public and private regional partners, its mission is to retain, expand and recruit jobs. The DDC and the Dayton region ranked as the nation's top metro for economic development in 2008, 2009 and 2012 and runner-up in 2010, 2011, 2014 and 2015. With the State's largest single-site employer in its backyard, the DDC also focuses on advocating for the critical missions at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base and supporting the work of the United States Air Force. The DDC was ranked as America's top military community, being honored with the 2015 Community Excellence Award from the Association of Defense Communities and was designated an ADC Great American Defense Community in 2016 – a testament to the collaborative efforts in support of Wright-Patt, America's #1 Air Force Base as ranked by the Air Force Times (2014).

**For any questions, contact Shannon Joyce Neal at (937) 231-5436, [sneal@daytonregion.com](mailto:sneal@daytonregion.com), or visit the Ohio Booth, #2239.**