

➤ Announcement

Agreement Brings Air Freight Revolution Closer

Archerfield Airport is charging ahead with the facilitation of emerging aviation technologies, signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Gap Drone, the Australian developer of uncrewed aerial vehicles that can deliver freight payloads of 60 to 90kg within a 1,100km range.

Archerfield Airport Corporation and Melbourne-based Gap Drone have agreed to collaborate, share technical expertise and address regulatory issues to develop remotely piloted aircraft systems (RPAS) at Archerfield Airport.

Archerfield Airport Joint Managing Director Lachlan Bird said RPAS represented a rare opportunity to help shape the technical, infrastructure, regulatory, environmental and investment ecosystem for a new aviation sector, one that Archerfield approached with expertise, experience and excitement.

"Travelling at speeds of 120km/h, Gap Drone's aircraft have enormous potential to ease 'middle-mile' supply chain pressures, particularly in regional areas," Mr Bird said.

"Archerfield Airport is uniquely well-placed to help bring this exciting new era in aviation to commercial fruition. Located only 11km from Brisbane's CBD and central to many of South-East Queensland's most vibrant regions, Archerfield offers unbeatable proximity and access to a critical mass of established aeronautical skills and suppliers."

Under the MoU, Archerfield Airport Corporation and Gap Drone will work with stakeholders and government authorities to establish a unified and coordinated framework for RPAS operations at Archerfield Airport, including operational procedures and infrastructure, to position Archerfield as a leading RPAS hub.

"We're excited to be partnering with Archerfield Airport as we explore the future of uncrewed aerial logistics together," Gap Drone Chief Executive Officer Liesl Haris said.

Below: Gap Drone's ATLAS-C aircraft in flight over regional Australia.
Photo credit: GAP Drone

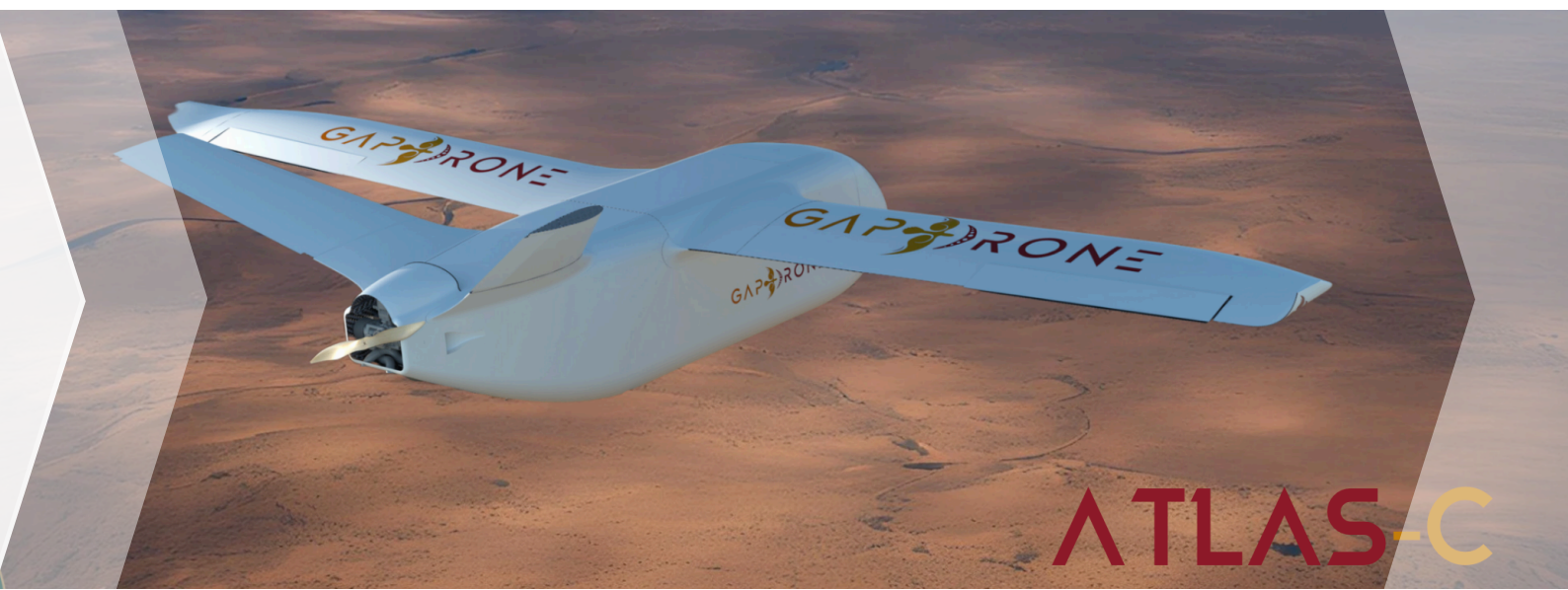
"This collaboration marks an important step towards enabling advanced RPAS operations in Australia, and we look forward to working closely to bring innovative solutions to regional and remote communities."

Gap Drone Chief Operating Officer Benet Hare added: "This partnership with Archerfield Airport is a great opportunity to help shape the future of aerial logistics infrastructure in Australia. We're proud to bring our technical expertise to the table and collaborate on creating real-world applications for RPAS technology."

The MoU with Gap Drone builds on agreements Archerfield Airport recently signed with Wisk Aero and AMSL Aero to develop the airport's capacity to service freight and air taxi operations using new aviation technologies.

"RPAS and other forms of advanced air mobility offer the greatest innovation in aviation since Archerfield expedited the birth of the industry in the 1930s and Archerfield Airport is ready to work with developers and operators to realise its incredible promise," Mr Bird said.

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ATLAS-C