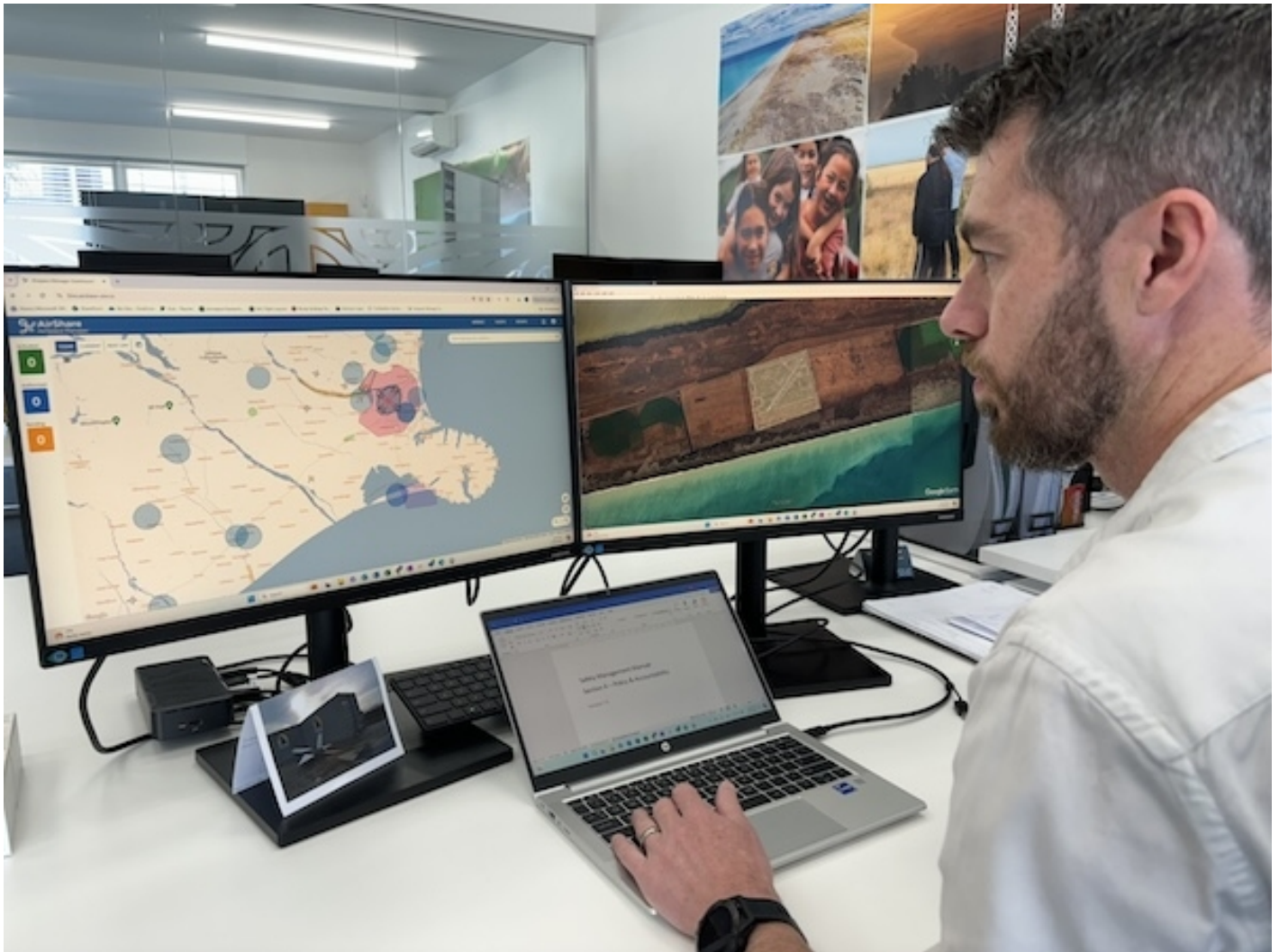




COLLABORATION BOOSTING CAPABILITY THROUGH UNCREWED TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT TECH

News / Airports / Routes



Aotearoa New Zealand is taking further steps to advance uncrewed aircraft operations and be at the leading edge of airspace integration with the deployment of the [AirShare](#) uncrewed traffic management system at [T?whaki](#) National Aerospace Centre. Implementing the UTM system developed by Airways at the multi-use facility near Christchurch marks the completion of the first phase of a collaboration agreement between the two organisations to help advance the fast-growing aerospace sector in New Zealand.

AirShare enables T?whaki to facilitate all uncrewed aircraft operations at the centre, through its flight information management system (FIMS) and uncrewed aircraft services including flight authorisations and pilot communications. AirShare also enhances situational awareness by providing a picture of airspace activity at and around T?whaki.

Advanced UTM features will be trialled at the centre, with input from operators, T?whaki and Airways to gather data on how UTM supports the development of a modern, safe airspace that serves all users.

Airways International Head of Products Justine Whitfield says: “We’re pleased to have already completed the first joint project with T?whaki under our collaboration agreement, with AirShare going live. We’re looking forward to working with different operators to inform the role of UTM in Aotearoa New Zealand, supporting future scalability and the safe integration of emerging technologies in the airspace system.”

T?whaki National Aerospace Centre at Kaitorete is recognised as one of the world’s best locations for aerospace with vast, unpopulated landscape, clear skies and seas just 50 minutes’ from ?tautahi Christchurch CBD.

T?whaki Head of Aerospace Stan Topping says the rollout of the AirShare UTM will not only benefit its customers but the wider sector as a whole: “Collaborating with Airways and utilising their UTM system is a great addition to the digital infrastructure we provide for testing, developing and operating new aerospace technologies at the T?whaki National Aerospace Centre. Not only will it enhance our operators’ experience, it will also generate crucial insights for innovators, policy makers and regulators. This will help inform what’s required from a modern airspace system to realise the benefits of advanced aviation in Aotearoa and around the world – from sustainable, cost-effective transportation to connecting remote communities and disaster responses.”

AirShare was previously used at T?whaki as part of the world-first successful beyond visual line of sight flights led by Wisk Aero to safely integrate an uncrewed aircraft into unsegregated controlled airspace. This was in partnership with government and industry partners including Airways.

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