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Update on Bell's Involvement in Air On-Demand Mobility
(Exploring and exploiting advanced technologies for autonomous flight in vertical lift applications)

Abstract

On-Demand Mobility brings together the ability to transport people and packages with the flexibility needed to support customer timetables. Bell's current efforts in on-demand mobility includes the development of an Air Taxi platform and a family of logistics air vehicles – all operating autonomously. The problem and solution spaces are more than the aircraft but also include flight operations, fleet management, maintenance, training and other disciplines. This presentation will provide a glimpse and update into the state of on-demand air transportation development efforts, focusing on some of Bell's ongoing efforts.

Biography

Mike McNair has been a technology leader in military/defense, academic and commercial environments for over 30 years. In his current role at Bell – Textron, he is leading autonomy research and development work that will be incorporated into Bell's future platforms.

Academically, Mike brings a B.S. in Physics from Texas A&M University and an M.S. in Systems Engineering from The George Washington University. He has held his PMI Project Management Professional certification since 2007. Professionally, he has participated in and led numerous research and engineering efforts ranging from hand-held gas detectors to satellite systems and military aircraft simulators to autonomous vehicles. He has had technical and programmatic responsibility for programs valued from $50k to those in excess of $50M.

With specific reference to unmanned vehicles, he is a current member of AUVSI and AHS. He serves on the SAE AS-4 committee for unmanned system standards, ANSI UAS Standardization Collaborative, and ASTM F-44 committee. He was also the Lead System Integrator (LSI) Chief Architect for Unmanned Systems on the US Army's Future Combat Systems/BCTM program. This role was held concurrently with the LSI Chief Software Engineer position for Unmanned Systems on the same project. Mike led the Automation and Intelligent Systems division at the University of Texas at Arlington Research Institute before going back into industry at Bell.

His current work at Bell is focused on efforts in autonomy, flight controls, and user experience for Bell's future aircraft. He leads the core efforts in these areas at Bell and takes a collaborative approach to partnering, seeking the "best of the best" for potential partnerships.