

**NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

April 1, 2016

Contact:

John Vislosky, (301) 941-1110

E-mail: john.vislosky@accessspectrum.com

Robert Becklund, (701) 777-6330

E-mail: rbecklund@nd.gov

**ACCESS SPECTRUM ANNOUNCES EXPANDED
COMMUNICATIONS CAPACITY FOR UNMANNED FLIGHTS IN NORTH DAKOTA**

BETHESDA, MD. – Access Spectrum announced today an agreement with the Northern Plains Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) Test Site to expand its capabilities to provide communications between unmanned aircraft and ground flight crews. An agreement has been reached with North Dakota's Northern Plains UAS Test Site to utilize the Upper 700 MHz A Block Spectrum.

The agreement provides access for the Northern Plains UAS Test Site to test UAS command and control operations on dedicated spectrum. The Upper 700 MHz A Block Spectrum, formerly used for television analog broadcast signals, is now being licensed by the FCC for private use in a broad range of applications. Access Spectrum is a licensee within this FCC space on the communications spectrum.

"The Northern Plains UAS Test Site can now offer access to this dedicated spectrum to industry for any research projects and, at the same time, test the safety and efficiency of this communications channel for UAS applications," says Northern Plains UAS Test Site Executive Director Robert Becklund. "It is often difficult to access private spectrum, so this agreement gives us a distinct advantage to attract UAS research partners to North Dakota who want to have broader abilities within the communications spectrum."

"We believe this is just the beginning for the UAS commercial industry and licensed spectrum, especially the Upper 700 MHz A Block," said John Vislosky, senior vice president of Access Spectrum. "As we move to the next dimension of commercial applications for UAS, I am confident that licensed spectrum will help determine the new standard for safe UAS operations and secure data collection."

Access Spectrum holds 28 of the 52 licenses the FCC offers by geographic area in the Upper 700 MHz A Block Spectrum and works closely with the holders of the remaining 24 licenses and can facilitate the sale of licenses in the remainder of the country.

North Dakota has invested more than \$34 million to establish a national UAS test site, to establish the Grand Sky UAS Business Park and to advance North Dakota's position as a hub for the nation's growing UAS industry.

North Dakota is a leader in unmanned aircraft systems (UAS). On December 30, 2013, North Dakota was selected as one of six FAA test sites that will conduct crucial research that will assist the FAA in developing regulatory standards to foster integration of UAS into the national airspace. The Northern Plains UAS Test Site became the first site to begin flights in May 2014. As a FAA UAS Test Site location, North Dakota positions itself at the forefront of the burgeoning UAS industry.

For additional information contact John Vislosky, Senior Vice President, Access Spectrum, LLC; at (301) 941-1110 or by email at john.vislosky@accessspectrum.com; or Robert Becklund, Executive Director, Northern Plains Unmanned Aircraft Systems Test Site; at (701) 777-6330 or by email at rbecklund@nd.gov