DRONES BEYOND 2025

Towards the Adoption of Innovative Aerial Services

Drones Beyond.

Bari, Fiera del Levante

12-13-14 November 2025

DRAFT AGENDA

With the patronage of:

REGIONAL DEPARTMENT FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
APULIA REGION

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EUROCONTROL

DAY 1 – Vision & Gaps

12/11/2025

Session 1 [09:00 – 15:00]

The European and global path toward sustainable drone services

This opening session will define the strategic vision for the development of sustainable drone services in Europe and beyond. As part of Day 1's overarching theme, "Vision and Gaps," this session focuses on outlining where we are headed over the next 5 to 15 years - technologically, institutionally, and societally.

Through keynotes, high-level discussions, and demonstrations, speakers will present perspectives from European institutions, public regulators, smart city leaders, pioneering end-users, and companies developing drones, U-space, and IAS (Innovative Aerial Services) solutions.

The session will also reflect on how global defense priorities and innovation policies are shaping the trajectory of the drone ecosystem.

Special emphasis will be placed on the enabling role of smart cities, the importance of public acceptance, and the economic and societal value that IAS is expected to deliver. The session will set the stage for the rest of the conference by defining a shared vision and highlighting what's required-from regulation to infrastructure to market development-to realize it.

KEYNOTES & PANELS

Panel: The role of UAS/IAS in future EU smart cities, how to push the vision

- **Panel: The Role of Municipalities in shaping the future of AAM**
- **Panel: Dual Use Innovation – How it pushes civil IAM**
- **Panel: Industry Vision and readiness**
- **DEMO: Visionary IAS Demonstration**

Session 2 [15:00 – 17:30]

Bridging the Vision: Identifying the Gaps

Following the vision outlined in the opening session, this second session focuses on the real-world obstacles that currently hinder the development and scaling of sustainable drone services. Through a user-centered panel ("A Day in the Life of a Drone User"), a collective roundtable discussion ("What Are the Gaps?"), and a strategic wrap-up, the session will examine gaps in regulation, infrastructure, integration, public acceptance, and business readiness. Participants will gain first-hand insights into the operational challenges faced by drone users across sectors, helping to ground the vision in the complexity of actual deployment. This session aims to surface and clarify the critical issues that must be addressed before innovative aerial services can deliver their promised societal and economic value. It sets the stage for Day 2, which will focus on practical strategies, partnerships, and policy mechanisms to close these gaps.

KEYNOTES & PANELS

- **Panel: A Day in the Life of a Drone User**
- **Roundtable: What Are the Gaps?**
- **Wrap up: Recap & Transition to Day 2**

DAY 2 – Closing the gaps

13/11/2025

Session 3 [09:00 – 15:00]

Closing the Gaps: From Barriers to Scalable Solutions

Building on the vision and critical barriers outlined in Day 1, this session turns to the practical pathways for accelerating the deployment of sustainable drone services. Through collaborative research, testing infrastructures, and pioneering commercial initiatives, stakeholders across Europe are working to close the gaps- technical, regulatory, operational, and societal-that stand in the way.

The session will highlight the role of EU-funded R&I projects and private-sector efforts in shaping next-generation drone capabilities: from advanced vehicle design and tailored mission development to navigation procedures, airspace integration, and resilient communication systems. It will also address the increasing need for complex AI-enabled operations and safe high-density aerial environments.
Central to this conversation is the critical role of UAS Test Centers in enabling experimentation at scale. Europe's test sites, including the Grottaglie Airport Test Bed (GATB) operated by DTA, are not only providing the infrastructure for safe flight testing—they are becoming strategic accelerators for industrial and regulatory progress.
GATB, now a center of excellence, collaborates internationally with counterparts such as Japan's UAS system and New Mexico's test center. During this session, it will demonstrate some of its capabilities, showcasing its contribution to Europe's Drone Strategy 2.0 (Flagship 14).

KEYNOTES & PANELS

- **Panel: Projects to Bridge the Gaps**
- **Panel: European UAS test centers, the lever for accelerating the pace**
- **Keynote + Demo: GATB Spotlight**
- **Panel: Commercial experiences to learn from**
- **Demo: GATB in Action - Complex Mission Demo**

Session 4 [15:00 – 17:30]

Preparing for industry growth

As the drone and advanced air mobility sector matures, its successful deployment will depend not only on technology and infrastructure but also on the development of a highly skilled workforce. This session focuses on the human capital required to transform innovative concepts into operational, scalable services.
Emerging aerial service ecosystems call for professionals with entirely new skillsets: from UAS operators and maintenance crews to mission planners and payload specialists, all trained to work with complex, integrated systems and evolving regulatory frameworks.
Education and training programs-such as those being developed under the AIRMOB project-aim to establish new European learning pathways that anticipate the needs of this fast-evolving sector.
Alongside workforce development, this session will also examine the role of business incubation and acceleration. While these support structures already exist across Europe, adapting them to the unique challenges of drone and U-space services will be critical for fostering entrepreneurship and market adoption.

KEYNOTES & PANELS

- Panel: Training for Tomorrow
- From Startups to Scaleups
- Roundtable: Coordinating the Path Forward

DAY 3 – Education and industry growth

Side events

14/11/2025

Session 5 [09:00 – 13:00]

AIRMOB Italian CoVE Engagement Event

TO BE DEFINED

Session 6 [15:00 – 17:30]

Ap–EDIH Apulian Digital Innovation Hub event

TO BE DEFINED