

## About SkeyDrone

- Founded in 2020
- Joint venture between skeyes & Brussels Airport Company (since 2022)
- Drone solutions and services provider
- Leading role in U-space implementation and major European drone projects





#### A market in full evolution

#### Mature use cases

- Infrabel, DIAB for railway inspection
- PoAB, D-Hive (automated DIAB Network)
- CityMesh Safety Drone (70 DiaB)







## Technology in full evolution

Scalable BVLOS 'Drone in a box' systems, allowing automated, remote piloted flights, are gaining pace

Allowing cost-efficient 24/7 drone service availability









# Why U-space?

Authorities see low demand and don't prioritize rule-making

DEMAND

Regulatory Framework Delays

BVLOS flights require approvals that are slow and complex

No Urgency for Regulators

Companies can't scale without operational freedom, limiting investment.

Limited BVLOS Operations

Small Market & Business Cases Without approvals, only a small number of BVLOS flights take place



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No framework = No growth, No growth = No framework

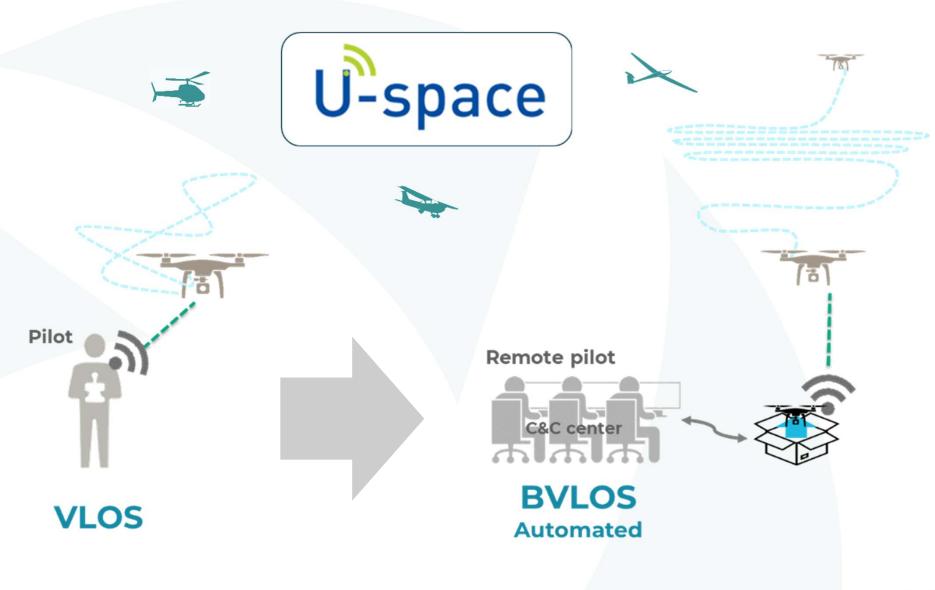
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**Small Market** Cases

Without approvals, only a small number of BVLOS flights take place





















# How to get eyes in the skies?



# How to get eyes in the skies?

Before the flight

**'STRATEGIC'** 

Where are you planning to be?

The flight plan

&

FLIGHT PLAN
DECONFLICTING



Where are you?

During the flight

'TACTICAL'

Where are you flying now?



The real-time location data &

**COLLISION AVOIDANCE** 



# The solution by design: U-space



#### services

**Deconflicting in space and time** all drone flight-plans

through the

**UAS FLIGHT AUTHORISATION SERVICE** 

**Knowing all geozone restrictions** through the **GEO-AWARENESS** 

**SERVICE** 



**ONLY THE ONES THAT COOPERATE!** 

**Getting to know in real-time** where all drones are flying through the

**NETWORK IDENTIFICATION SERVICE** 

**Displaying in real-time** where all aircraft - crewed and uncrewed - are flying through the

> TRAFFIC INFORMATION **SERVICE**





- U-space is a regulatory concept with a goal to safely integrate drones with crewed aviation.
- It consists of a special Geo-zone (U-space airspace),
- Where a set of risk mitigating services are obligatory
   (U-space services),
   offered by certified U-space service providers (USSPs) in an open competitive market.
- Skeyes has been appointed as Single Common Information Service Provider acting as data broker for data exchange with & between USSPs
- It is SkeyDrone's ambition is to become a certified USSP.



# The U-space services: geo-awareness





# The U-space services: flight authorisation

# Flight plan authorisations Flight plan authorisations FAS



## The U-space services: flight authorisation

#### **SPECIAL OPERATIONS**

"When an authorisation request for a UAS flight which conducts special operations conflicts with a previously authorised normal UAS flight, the USSP should update or withdraw the authorisation of the normal flight, as may be necessary by the circumstances, in order to authorise the flight which conducts special operations."

#### The customer



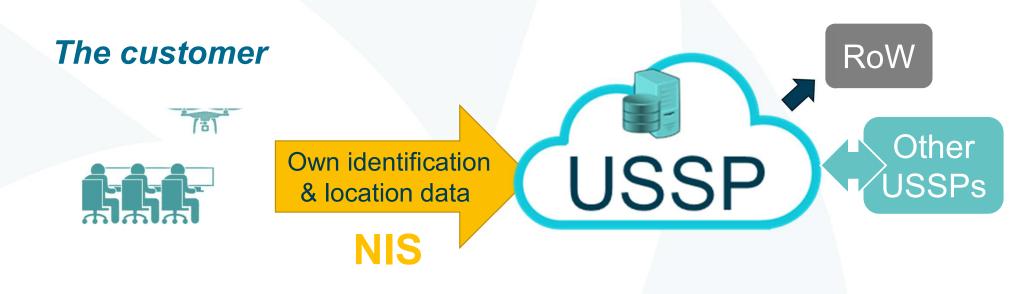


# The U-space services: flight authorisation



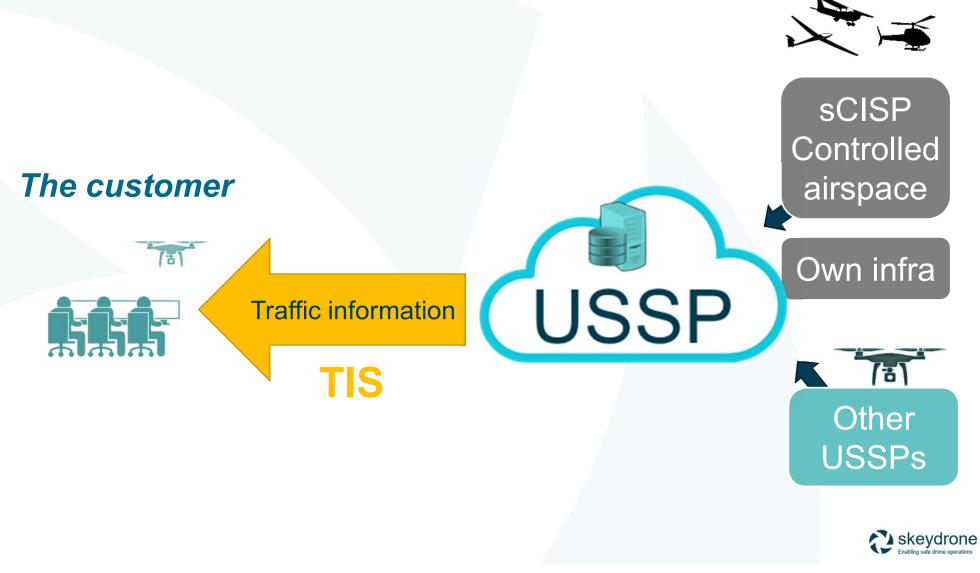


## The U-space services: network identification



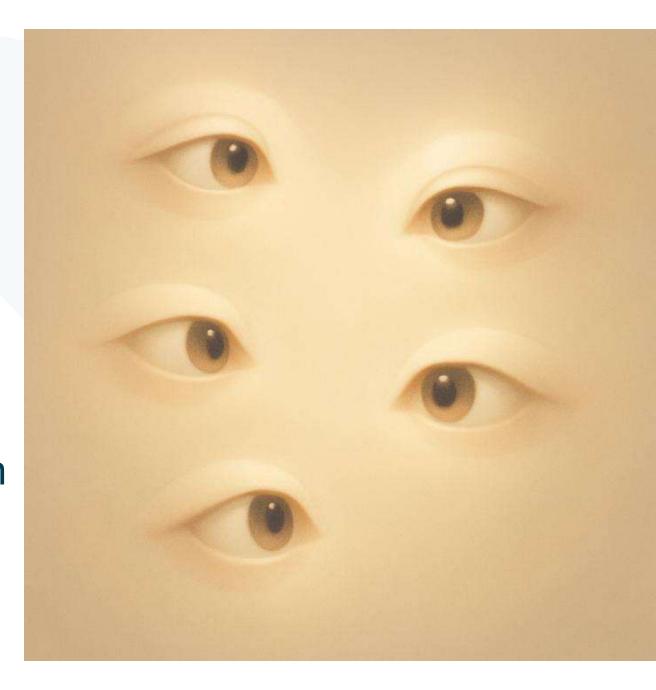


# The U-space services: traffic info





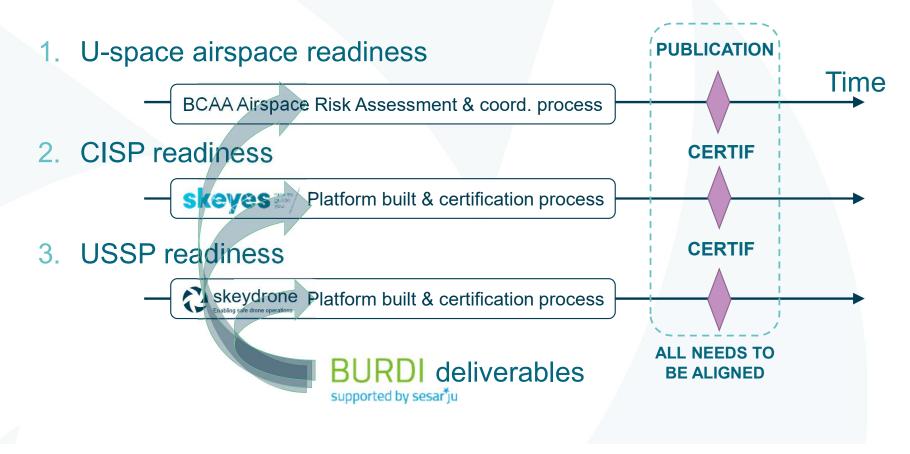
Cooperative environment where all drone flight plans are deconflicted and everybody can see everybody's position in real-time (crewed AND uncrewed)



# Key consideration

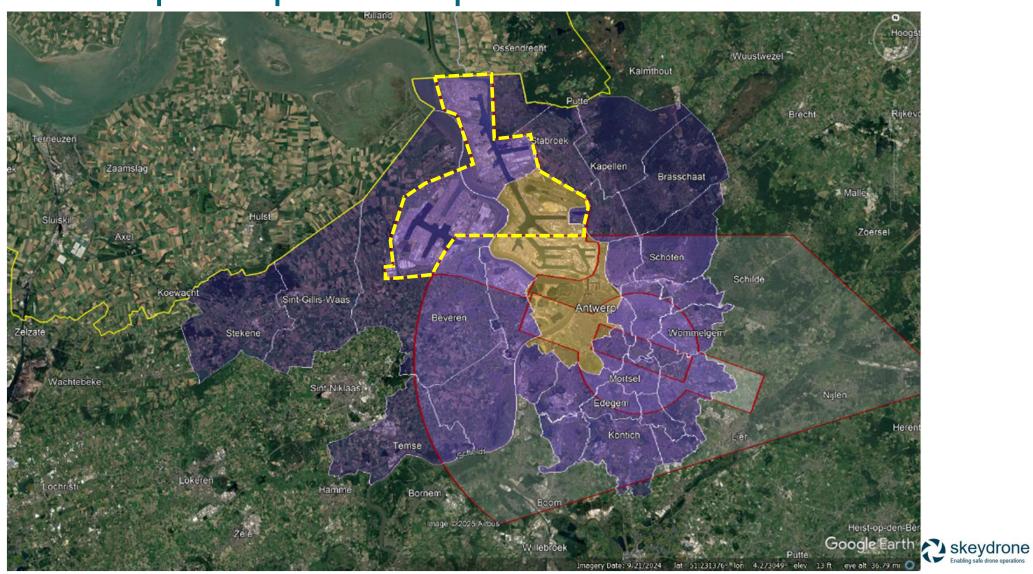
# **BURDI**

Actual first Belgian U-space implementation on 3 official pillars:



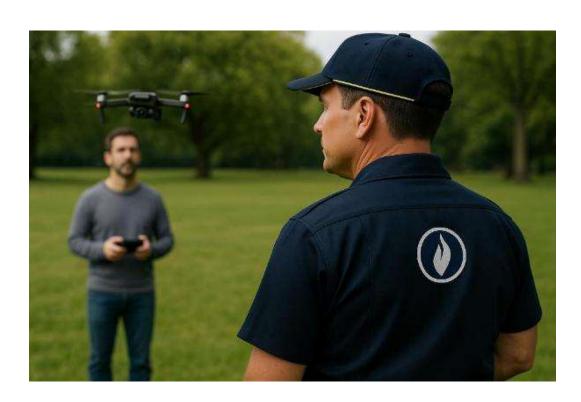


# Antwerp: U-space airspace





#### Police dual role



Law enforcement

# State drone operator





#### Police dual role



Law enforcement

# State drone operator





PRIORITY attribute

**Standard** 



**Priority** 

PRIVACY attribute

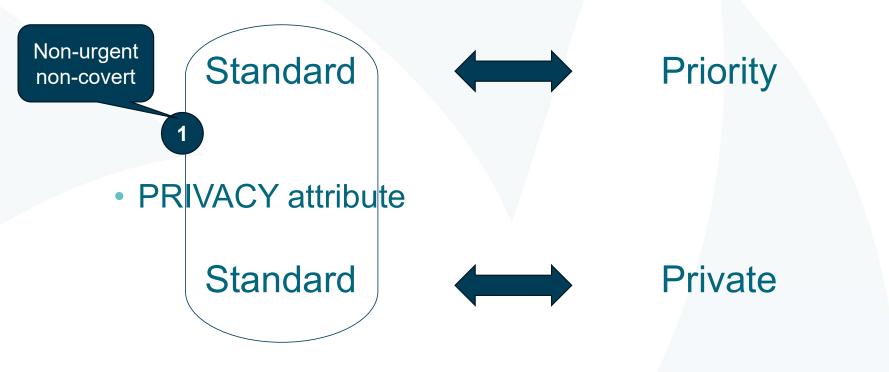
**Standard** 



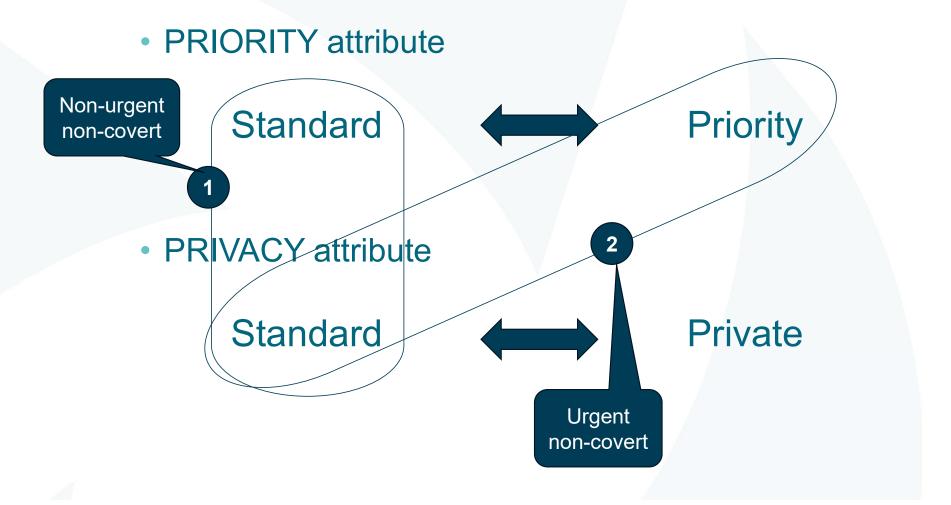
Private



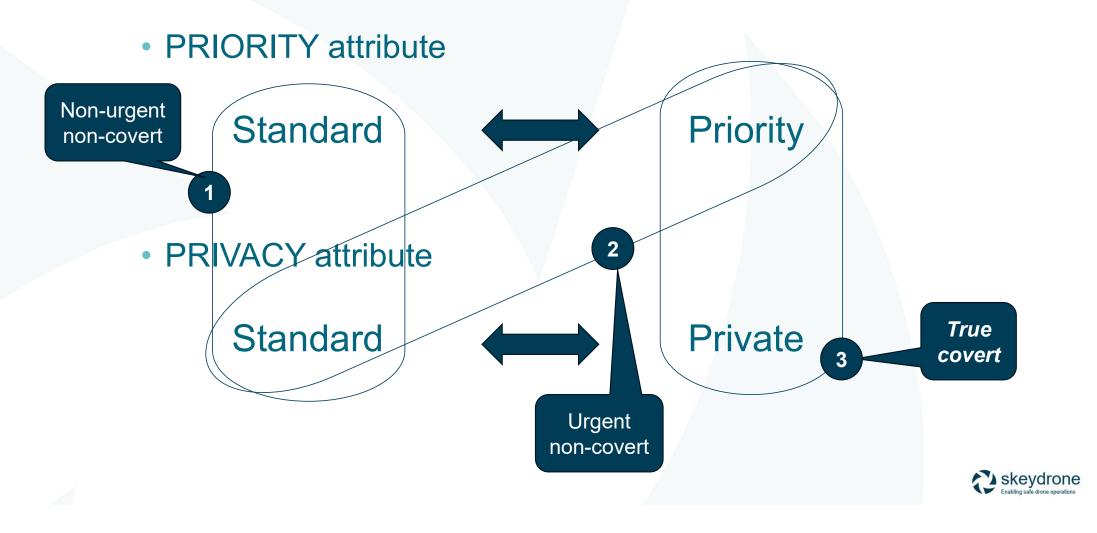
PRIORITY attribute











## Why a simple opt-in is such a problem:

- State aircraft drone often have a problem with:
  - Applying for a flight authorisation due to timing constraints
  - Sharing real-time position data (through U-space Network Identification Service)
- PROPOSAL: classify state aircraft drone operations in three:
  - 1. Non-urgent non-covert operations (with pretty much the same characteristics of civil drone flights, e.g. crowd control surveillance flights), be it with possibly an acceptance of higher risk profile => full opt-in benefiting from embedded priority for UAS flight authorisation service and all other U-space service (incl. Traffic Info Service)
  - 2. Urgent non-covert operations (e.g. search & rescue operations), be it with possibly an acceptance of higher risk profile => still opt-in but with 'short-cut' exemptions on the flight authorisation operational conditions and airspace constraints
  - 3. True covert operations (urgent or not) => only opt-in on the <u>use</u> of the U-space Traffic Information Service as situational awareness risk mitigation measure (i.e. you're not letting anybody know where you are, but you do know where everybody else is)



#### **CORUS XUAM recommendations**

- Concept: where calamities occur (i.e. in Belgium: ad hoc geozones with increased air-risk due to higher traffic densities): create a temporary U-space airspace
  - For the sake of the obligation of the use of the U-space services to allow all to "see and be seen"

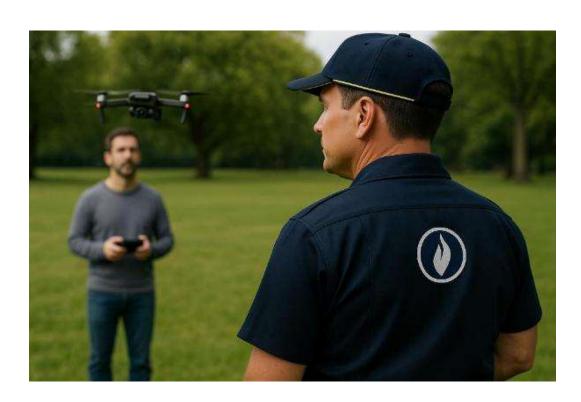
#### **HOWEVER**

- Need for an overarching geozone manager that controls the access to the airspace (who's allowed in who's not)
- No absolute need to have multiple USSPs active
- Need for temporary opt-in for state aircraft flights
- No time (nor need for full blown ARA with concluding performance requirements)
- Covert operations still possible based on full opt-out and own responsibility to deconflict





#### Police dual role



Law enforcement

# State drone operator







#### Not all non-compliance is equal: assessing operator risk

**15% CAREFUL CRIMINAL** Aware of and adhere to May be aware of but do not regulations and safe drone adhere to regulations. Intentions are hostile. operations. **Drone** operators **CLUELESS CARELESS** Not aware of and do not May be aware of but may not adhere to regulations. Intentions are reckless.



#### What to do next



STEP 1

# Real-time monitoring:

Immediate alerts and live drone & other aircrafts tracking.





STEP 2

#### **UTM** correlation:

Seamless integration with flight authorization systems to distinguish authorized from unauthorized flights.





STEP 3

# Historical data access:

Comprehensive detection records for post-incident review and compliance reporting.

3

**Detection lifecycle** 



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# Need for an aligned civ-mil drone action plan

