



ENAIRe coordinates drone flights conducted by law enforcement agencies related to the COVID-19 pandemic

- Increased requests for unmanned aircraft flights in situations of serious risk due to state of emergency
- Most operations are in support of police activities to track and enforce the lockdown
- ENAIRe coordinates the operations of law enforcement agencies with towers and air control centres

Madrid, 17 April 2020

Through its SYSRED H24 units and the Airspace Operational Coordination Department, ENAIRe is coordinating more than 30 drone operations carried out by law enforcement agencies and related to the state of emergency that was decreed due to COVID-19.

During the period between 14 March and 15 April, most unmanned aircraft flights were conducted as part of activities to monitor and enforce lockdown measures.

RPAS operations are taking place in municipalities throughout Spain in collaboration with Aena, the Air Staff, the Military Emergencies Unit, the National Police, the Civil Guard, the regional police forces of Catalonia, the Basque Country and Navarre, local police and civil protection organisations.

Increase in drone operations in risky situations

Since the state of emergency was activated, ENAIRe has registered more than 40 requests for unmanned aircraft flights under Article 44 of Royal Decree 1036/2017, which regulates the use of drones in situations of serious risk, catastrophe or public disaster.

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These drone operations are being conducted to deal with emergencies such as: the landslide at the Zaldívar landfill in Bizkaia, at the request of the Basque police; firefighting activities and the search for missing persons, such as the operation coordinated with the fire brigades of the Zaragoza Council; as well as the aforementioned patrol and surveillance activities to prevent the further spread of COVID-19.

At the regional level, some of the operations coordinated by ENAIRE and its SYSRED H24 and Airspace Operational Coordination departments include:

- In the Basque Country, in order to assist emergency and security services, the Basque Government and the regional police are carrying out RPAS operations in the three Basque capitals, coordinated by ENAIRE with its air traffic control service at the airports of Bilbao, San Sebastian and Vitoria.
- ENAIRE is coordinating specialised operations flights with the Navarre Regional Police in the controlled traffic regions (CTR) of the airports of Logroño, San Sebastian and Pamplona, as well as in other areas.
- In the Community of Madrid, coordinated operations between ENAIRE's Control Centre in Madrid and the Municipal Police of Madrid and the Local Police of Rivas-Vaciamadrid to patrol both municipalities.
- In Catalonia, flights by the regional police and, in the municipalities of Badalona and its municipal police, and in Castelldefels and its local police, coordinated with ENAIRE's Control Centre and the control tower in Barcelona.
- In the Canary Islands, the municipalities of Santa Cruz de Tenerife, Telde, Teror, Valleseco, Ingenio and Arona also have air surveillance operations coordinated with ENAIRE's Control Centre and tower in Gran Canaria.
- In Valencia: coordinated operations with local police in Valencia and the Valencia Safety and Emergency Response Agency (AVSRE) and ENAIRE's Terminal Area Control Centre in Valencia.

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- In Andalusia, RPAS flights coordinated with ENAIRe's Control Centre in Seville and the local police forces of San Bartolomé de la Torre and Puebla de Guzmán, in Huelva.
- In the Balearic Islands, RPAS operations conducted by the Santa Eularia des Riu Municipal Police in Ibiza, coordinated with ENAIRe's Control Centre in Palma.

About ENAIRe

ENAIRe is the company of the Ministry of Transport, Mobility and the Urban Agenda that manages air navigation in Spain. It renders aerodrome control services at 21 airports, including the busiest in terms of air traffic, plus en-route and approach control, from five control centres: Barcelona, Madrid, Gran Canaria, Palma and Seville. In addition, ENAIRe provides communications, navigation and surveillance services to 45 air control towers.

In 2019, ENAIRe handled 2.1 million flights to and from four continents (Europe, America, Asia and Africa), transporting 300 million passengers.

ENAIRe is the fourth most important European air navigation service provider, and, in a clear commitment to the Single Sky initiative, belongs to international partnerships such as SESAR (Single European Sky ATM Research) Joint Undertaking, SESAR Deployment Manager, A6, ITEC, CANSO (Civil Air Navigation Services Organisation) and ICAO (International Civil Aviation Organization).

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