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Subject: Notice of the Ban on the Purchase and Use of Covered Foreign Drones

In 2018, the Department of Defense (DoD) issued a [ban on the purchase and use of DJI drones due to cyber vulnerabilities](#). The Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency has issued [guidance on the use of Chinese-manufactured UAS](#) in order to mitigate potential cybersecurity threats in **non-Federal projects**.

The [American Security Drone Act of 2023](#), signed into law on December 22, 2023, **prohibits the use of Federal funds**, awarded through contracts, grants, cooperative agreements, or otherwise made available, for the **procurement or operation** of covered unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) manufactured or assembled by "covered" foreign entities beginning December 22, 2025. The covered foreign entities are listed in the Consolidated Screening List (CSL), which includes DJI and Autel Robotics.

Consequently, researchers and personnel at the University of Alaska must be aware of federal restrictions when planning to incorporate drones into federally funded research endeavors. To provide clarity and guidance on the impacts of these federal restrictions, the Vice Chancellors for Research, in consultation with the University General Counsel, have developed this guidance for the UA research communities.

UA Guidance:

1. For those currently using a drone under a federal grant that extends into 2026, it is important to consult with your project manager to determine whether transitioning to a compliant drone will be necessary in the upcoming budget cycle. For an up-to-date list of UAS that comply with Federal regulations, please visit the [Blue UAS Cleared List](#) maintained by the Defense Innovation Unit.
2. When considering the procurement of a UAS or drone, it is essential to account for the restrictions imposed by this legislation and any other proposed regulatory measures.

3. Exemptions and waivers are only available to federal agencies under specific criteria in support of national interests.

UA Bans: As of the date of this memorandum, the procurement of drones listed on [LC1] the CSL is prohibited. Furthermore, the operation of drones on the CSL will not be permitted beginning December 22, 2025.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

Laura Conner

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Interim Vice Chancellor for Research

Cc: General Counsel