



Media Release – 30 October 2007

UFS Commences UAV Energy Asset Management Trials

UAV Flight Services (UFS), a V-TOL Aerospace SBU, today commenced in the Kingaroy region phase one (1) of a three (3) year program to develop a commercial solution in the use of UAVs in power distribution asset management and disaster recovery. Present in the field were UFS staff, Ergon Regional Management and the Project Management for CRC-SI Project 6.7 (www.spatialinfocrc.org) **Ergon Energy**.

UFS Chief UAV Controller Mark Xavier said, “today’s activity involved flying sections of Ergon powerlines to assess the level of difficulty in programming a basic UAS (Unmanned Airborne System) to autonomously track and image powerlines. We also wanted to further develop the data-sets and identify the variables that will be required to answer the critical research questions.



It is the intention of V-TOL, in conjunction with its technology and research partners, to provide Australian and New-Zealand power utility and distribution companies affordable UAV based GIS products and services designed to significantly increase network situational awareness while reducing the direct operating costs of asset management and disaster recovery.”

“Through CRC-SI and our unique sector relationships, we look forward to contributing to the competitive sustainability of the Australian energy sector,” he said.

For further information see www.v-tol.com/iproducts/ or contact: ufs@v-tol.com