

RETIREMENT – OR ADVANCED DRONING WITH BVLOS!

There I was, 'retired'. A lifetime in the business of sports marketing had taken me to 50+ countries around the world. What a life. Meeting so many interesting people and sharing experiences. But that is another story altogether.

Driving test at 17, Advanced Driving test with the IAM at 21, I felt reasonably well qualified to pass on my years of car driving experience to others and joined my local IAM group in Sussex (CSAM) to qualify for Local Observer status. Then my move to Aberdeenshire, joining the local Aberdeen group (AAM), qualifying as a National Observer with the help of a great team, and back to enjoying my role with new Associates.



A while back I was asked to take a pre-test of an Associate which led to an invitation to join a new start-up company in the commercial use of drones.

Apparently, the existing team felt that my commercial background with involvement in the 1st FAI World Drone Racing Championships in China would help develop their newly formed company, Drone Technologies Limited (DTL) based in Aberdeenshire.

A year on, I am now fully engaged on a daily basis, learning a new, exciting and challenging industry – the world of drones. From aerial drone shows lighting the night sky to heavy lift Autonomous Aerial Vehicles, to advanced passenger drones currently capable of travelling 35k at 130kph.

Forget IPSSGA – think **BVLOS**, the holy grail of drone flight in the UK (Beyond Visual Line of Sight), providing autonomous UAV flight in unsegregated airspace!

And as an example of the work, we are now engaged with Angus Council in creating Scotland's first drone port in Montrose. Business leaders and the local authority believe that setting up the pioneering facility will elevate the area to world-leading status, serving industries including construction, agriculture and the burgeoning offshore renewables sector.

The point of the story is that observing for the IAM/AAM can bring a whole new world of opportunity if you care to embrace it. Then again, you might just want to stay retired!

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