

ThunderDrone RPE I Summary

The first SOFWERX ThunderDrone Rapid Prototyping Event (RPE) Tech Rodeo was held 1-3 Nov 2017, hosting over 200 participants, who came from Govt, Industry, Academia and Labs, to participate in a variety of demonstrations and presentations. Key technologies demonstrated levels of autonomy and mapping for land and air to include navigation and target identification, analytics in geospatial and intelligence, ATAK interoperability, small sub surface vessels, and quadruped Unmanned Ground Vehicle robots that can transit diverse terrain. There were also examples of machine learning that utilized advanced algorithms being fed numerous streams of live or near real time sensor data.

Through direct feedback from government attendees, SOFWERX continued to support and advance the industry partners that presented promising technologies and to facilitate government-industry interactions that will ultimately place advanced drone capabilities into our Warfighters hands.

Event Outcomes:

- Capped the “First of its Kind” RPE event tailored towards rapid drone technology development for Warfighter advantage
- The ThunderDrone RPE I Rodeo event hosted 222 Industry and Warfighter / Government participants. There were 32 hand selected industry companies, laboratories, and universities that participated in 31 Experiments / Demonstrations
- Collaboration through the ThunderDrone RPE led to 10 teaming arrangements demonstrating their integrated technologies toward a desired warfighter capability
- Received and evaluated 675+ Government attendee comments on Industry Technologies
- Facilitated 100+ Government-Industry discussions for potential partnerships
- Innovated ThunderDrone-Operator working groups for future ThunderDrone RPEs tailored toward thorough Operator-focused needs

The next ThunderDrone RPE will be focused on countering small unmanned aerial systems (C-SUAS). RPE II is set to kick-off with a Tech Expo in January 2018!