



Letter from the president

Zurich, 25 March 2020

Dear DIAS members,

Switzerland's drone industry association now counts 38 Swiss companies as its members. As our association has grown, discussion and collaboration between these members has greatly intensified. In recent months our WhatsApp group has seen heavy use, and it has now been extended by a Slack workspace for topical discussions.

As we move into our association's third year, a handful of collaboration topics stand out:

1. Deeper collaboration with academia: The desire for a more systematic exchange and collaboration with Switzerland's world-leading research labs around topics like hiring and joint funding proposals has resulted in a first drone industry-academic meet-up in early 2020. The event was hosted by the Swiss regulator (FOCA) and attracted representatives from 29 companies and 11 research groups. FOCA has agreed to host a similar event in 2021. We are exploring ways to formalize this link between industry and academia.
2. A Swiss Drone Corridor: Manu Lubrano's (Involi) initiative of creating an area for easy testing of drones flying beyond visual line of sight (BVLOS) with minimal administrative hurdles has garnered strong support from Swiss drone companies. This initial vision has proven challenging to put into practice but has conveyed the importance of this topic to FOCA and alternatives are currently being explored jointly with FOCA and academic institutions.
3. Standards: Many of our members have identified emerging standards as a potential threat as well as an opportunity for their business. A standards group, led by Jens Henken (CertX), is currently in formation and may soon become DIAS first topical working group.

As I'm writing these words, another topic is on everyone's mind. The COVID-19 pandemic will have severe economic consequences globally and will affect many of us directly. In-depth

discussion on the rapidly evolving situation and ways for tackling this crisis are dominating the DIAS WhatsApp and Slack channels, and DIAS is in contact with political and economic stakeholders to help its members respond to the crisis.

After heading DIAS for its first two years as president, I will not stand for re-election for a third term. Our young association has grown from an idea into a strong community, and I am greatly looking forward to continuing work with all of you as a member as we bring DIAS to the next level.

Markus Waibel

President

DIAS

Annual Report 2019

January

La Nuit des Idées

DIAS represented the Swiss drone industry with its participation at the roundtable of the "Nuit des Idées", organized by the French Embassy in Switzerland and Lichtenstein.

March

S-GE Investment Summit

DIAS participated in a panel and workshop on robotics & drones at Switzerland Global Enterprise's annual summit.

Inauguration Payerne Airport

DIAS participated in the inauguration of the new business aviation terminal of Payerne Airport.

BratschiLAB

DIAS participated in the opening of the BratschiLAB with a panel on the topic "drones in logistics".



April

Cleantech in Chile

DIAS collaborated with Switzerland Global Enterprise (S-GE) on an event entitled "Cleantech in Chile - The untapped potential of green mining", held on 1 April in Zurich

May

Media Tour Swiss drones and robotics – China

In collaboration with Switzerland's Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA) and Presence Suisse, DIAS hosted a group of representatives of the Chinese media for a week-long tour of Swiss Drones and robotics.



Swiss Aviation May

DIAS participated in the Swiss Aviation Day, hosted by Switzerland's Federal Office of Civil Aviation (FOCA).

Rendez-Vous de l'Économie at the Aéroport de Payerne

DIAS contributed to the roundtable at the Rendez-Vous de l'Économie at the Aéroport de Payerne.

June

Brazil Fact Finding June 2019

DIAS supported S-GE's and Presence Switzerland's Drone Technology Fact-Finding Mission São Paulo.

September

Aviation Digital Transformation Forum - ADTF

DIAS organized the Aviation Digital Transformation Forum (ADTF), which attracted over 180 high-profile guests, from the European Commission's Senior Drone Expert Koen de Vos to EPFL's president Martin Vetterli. Stakeholders from more than 30 companies, including DJI, Airbus, and Alphabet's Wing, joined DIAS members in discussions around a broad range of topics centered around digital aviation.



The short ADTF overview video can be seen [here](#).

With overall budget of CHF 56k, ADTF generated a profit of CHF 2k for DIAS.

October

[CEATEC Japan](#)

DIAS worked with S-GE, Swissnex, Presence Switzerland, and the Embassy of Switzerland in Japan for its members to join the Swiss Pavilion at CEATEC Japan 2019.

November

3rd Swiss UTM Forum

DIAS moderated the panel discussion of the Centre for Aviation of the ZHAW's 3rd Swiss UTM Forum – Unmanned Aircraft Systems Traffic Management.

December - Industry Map

Over 100 eligible companies have been mapped:

