SECURING THE INDY 500:

HOW CUTTING-EDGE DRONE TECHNOLOGY AND COLLABORATION KEPT 350,000 SPECTATORS SAFE

ELEVATING PUBLIC SAFETY AT A MAJOR EVENT: The Power of Advanced Drone Technology and Inter-Agency Collaboration

The 2024 Indy 500 was more than just a race; it was a massive public safety operation that showcased the incredible power of drone technology and the importance of inter-agency collaboration. With 350,000 attendees, this event presented a unique challenge. The seamless integration of drone technology and the cooperation among multiple agencies played a pivotal role in maintaining security.

COORDINATING DRONE OPERATIONS IN A CROWDED ENVIRONMENT

Over ten federal, state, and local agencies joined forces to ensure the safety of everyone at the Indy 500. The use of drones was at the forefront of these efforts, demonstrating the capabilities of advanced technology and strategic planning.

Here's how drone technology was utilized to create a secure environment:



• Four Drone Launch Sites: Strategically positioned to cover the vast area, providing comprehensive aerial surveillance.



• **Eight Ground Response Teams:** Interfaced directly with the public, using Mobile Streaming & Tracking (MSAT) to stay connected and informed.



• **Two Mobile Teams for Rapid Deployment:** Ensured quick response times to any emerging situations, highlighting the flexibility and responsiveness of drone operations.



A FEDERAL REQUEST LEADING TO ENHANCED SECURITY

DroneSense was specifically requested by a federal agency to assist with UAS operations at the Indy 500 after learning about their capabilities at a world-renowned conference. This endorsement underscored the trust and reliability placed in advanced drone technology, showing just how vital these tools have become in large-scale events.

REAL-TIME SITUATIONAL AWARENESS WITH DRONE TECHNOLOGY

The ability to stream real-time video and location data was a game-changer. Integration allowed for:



• Building Mission Plans with Polygons: Enabled precise location streaming back to command centers, allowing for a clear understanding of areas of responsibilities (AOR's) for ground and air assets, while the ability to place markers - both with a drone and MSAT - provided detailed and actionable insights to decision makers.



• **Real-Time Streaming:** Provided continuous updates, enhancing situational awareness and enabling quick decision-making. This real-time data was critical in maintaining a comprehensive view of the event's dynamics. Navigating Federal Regulations and Enhancing Safety

Despite federal regulations prohibiting drones over large sporting events, agencies facilitated two distinct operational approaches:



1. Proactive: Drones were deployed for traffic management and overall safety, detecting and interacting with individuals breaking the law. This proactive approach ensured that potential issues were addressed swiftly and effectively



2. Reactive: Drones were on standby, ready to be deployed if situations escalated. This reactive capability provided an additional layer of security, ensuring that drones were available when needed most.

THE KEY ADVANTAGES OF DRONE TECHNOLOGY FOR LARGE EVENTS



1. Unparalleled Simplicity and Coordination: This technology's ability to integrate various tracking methods brought all teams together swiftly and efficiently. This streamlined coordination was pivotal in managing the large and dynamic environment of the Indy 500.



2. Enhanced Visibility: Drone operators could see all UAS assets and ground teams on a single map, significantly increasing safety by ensuring effective airspace deconfliction. This comprehensive visibility allowed operators to avoid potential collisions, ensuring safer and more efficient coordination of all assets, leading to better strategic planning and execution.

PARTNERING WITH CRITICAL RESPONSE GROUP (CRG)

The partnership with Critical Response Group (CRG) added an extra layer of effectiveness to the operations. This collaboration allowed public safety teams to identify and monitor locations both within and outside the track, providing insights that were previously unattainable. The integration of CRG's tools with the DroneSense platform provided a comprehensive view of the environment, enhancing the overall safety strategy.

The successful deployment of drone technology at the Indy 500 was a testament to the power of advanced solutions and inter-agency collaboration in ensuring public safety at large events. By providing real-time data, enhancing situational awareness, and enabling coordinated responses, DroneSense proved to be an invaluable asset in creating a secure environment for all attendees. This customer story highlights the critical role that advanced technology and collaboration play in public safety, setting a precedent for future large-scale events



