



News Release

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Sinclair Wins FAA Approval for Night Drone Operations Is also selected for FAA's Integration Pilot Program

Baltimore (June 5, 2018) – The FAA recently granted Sinclair Broadcast Group (Nasdaq: SBGI) permission to fly its newsgathering unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) beyond daylight operations, a restriction to which most UAS operators are subject. The waiver was granted based on Sinclair's demonstrated high standards of safety and risk mitigation. "Sinclair's safety training and protocols go above and beyond the minimum's required by the FAA, which is a big part of our success," said Jeff Rose, Sinclair's Chief Pilot and head of drone fleet operations. Sinclair currently operates the largest news-gathering drone program in the country, with almost 100 FAA certified and licensed pilots, and nearly 50 trained visual observers, operating at 40 stations and having logged over 6,000 flights to date. Rose continued, "A lot of breaking news happens at night, whether it is safety or weather related, and these exigent circumstances benefit from drone coverage."

This approval comes on the heels of Sinclair joining the FAA's Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) Integration Pilot Program (IPP). The purpose of the IPP is to advance the UAS industry by allowing stakeholders to incorporate new practices for safe UAS operations in the most responsible manner. The FAA recently announced only ten state, local and tribal governments chosen to participate in the IPP.

Sinclair will serve as corporate partner of the Commonwealth of Virginia's successful bid to participate in this exclusive program and further the development of the UAS industry.

The company was one of the first to partner with Virginia Tech, also a member of Virginia's IPP team, for flight training. Sinclair has worked with the Virginia Tech Mid-Atlantic Aviation Partnership since 2016, sending nine groups of veteran photojournalists for training in flight operations, safety, and compliance with the FAA's Part 107 regulations.

As Virginia Tech stated, this program is "good news for the commonwealth's residents, who will have a strong voice in the conversations unfolding around drones and their benefits. Through the program, the Virginia team will seek expedited flight permissions from the Federal Aviation Administration to perform some of the most complex flight testing ever attempted in the U.S."

Sinclair joins other leading corporate partners in the UAS industry in this endeavor. “Drone journalism has brought local television news coverage to the next level. It enables us to cover local news, weather, traffic, and other important local topics with a new perspective and our viewers love it. Our involvement in this program speaks volumes to our commitment to the safe use of drones for newsgathering. As we look toward the future of the UAS industry, we are proud to be a part of the innovation that will define its success,” Rose said.

About Sinclair:

Sinclair is one of the largest and most diversified television broadcasting companies in the country. Pro forma for the Tribune acquisition and related station divestitures, the Company will own, operate and/or provide services to 215 television stations in 102 markets. Sinclair is a leading local news provider in the country and operates the greatest number of award-winning news rooms in the industry and is dedicated to impactful journalism with a local focus. The Company has multiple national networks, live local sports production, as well as stations affiliated with all the major networks. Sinclair’s content is delivered via multiple-platforms, including over-the-air, multi-channel video program distributors, and digital platforms. The Company regularly uses its website as a key source of Company information which can be accessed at www.sbg.net.

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