

Airspace Awareness and C UAS Integration for Agencies

Preparing FEMA C UAS Grant Requests

Cities and state agencies planning C UAS projects should begin with a clear assessment of their existing technology, operational requirements, and the need for a unified operational picture.

A central integration platform is the foundation of any detection, tracking, identification, and monitoring program. FEMA funded projects benefit most when agencies evaluate integration choices early, since this decision influences hardware compatibility, interagency coordination, and long term sustainability.

This guide outlines the considerations agencies should review when selecting an integration platform.

1. Integration First

Most municipalities already own components of an airspace awareness system. These may include Remote ID receivers, fixed cameras, RF detectors, acoustic systems, pole mounted devices, and radar units. Without a central integration layer, these assets cannot communicate, cannot be correlated, and do not support coordinated response.

Agencies can consider several categories of integration environments.

- Multi sensor fusion platforms such as Lattice by Anduril and UNIFY.C2 by SPS, which focus on wide area, multi modality tracking and operational command interfaces.
- Equipment driven operating systems such as Dronesentry, Axon Dedrone, and WhiteFox, which are built around their own sensor ecosystems and provide unified monitoring for their proprietary devices.

The choice of integration approach will affect the flexibility, sensor mix, and level of interoperability available to the agency.

2. Interoperable With Existing Equipment

A key FEMA evaluation factor is the ability to preserve prior investments. Agencies should document all existing sensors and determine which integration platforms can incorporate them without requiring replacement.

Consider the following questions.

- Does the platform accept data from radar, RF detectors, Remote ID devices, fixed and PTZ cameras, thermal cameras, and acoustic sensors.

- Does it ingest open protocols and multi vendor formats or only specific proprietary feeds.
- Will it support both current and planned devices in the FEMA proposal.

Platforms vary in openness. Multi sensor fusion platforms often support broad integrations. Equipment driven operating systems may be optimized for their own hardware and may provide limited compatibility outside that ecosystem.

3. Breadth of Integrations and Modalities

FEMA favors projects that include multiple detection modalities because they demonstrate resilience and readiness for complex environments.

When evaluating integration choices, agencies should consider:

- The number of sensor types supported by the platform.
- Availability of radar, RF, optical, thermal, acoustic, and Remote ID ingestion paths.
- Whether integrations are actively maintained and validated.
- The ability to add new devices over time without major rework.

Platforms like Lattice and UNIFY.C2 are designed for multi vendor ingestion. Equipment driven systems like Dronesentry, Axon Dedrone, and WhiteFox focus on optimized performance when used with matched proprietary sensors.

4. Interagency and Multi Stakeholder Operations

C UAS operations often involve multiple agencies such as police, fire, emergency operations, fusion centers, airports, federal partners, and regional entities. FEMA prioritizes interoperable solutions that support these coordinated missions.

Agencies should evaluate:

- Whether the integration platform supports role based access and shared views.
- Whether external agencies can access live situational awareness.
- Whether the platform can scale to city wide or multi jurisdictional operations.
- How data is stored, shared, and made available for after action review.

Consider whether each platform option can serve as a common operating picture for all stakeholders, not just the agency owning the hardware.

5. Your Next Step

Before requesting quotes or selecting hardware, agencies should begin with a documented integration assessment. This should outline:

- All existing sensors and systems.

- Geographic areas requiring monitoring.
- Agencies that require visibility.
- Preferred integration platform category.
- Planned expansions that may occur after FEMA funding.

More information can be found at www.2026FIFA.us.