

# Ezassi Propels NIST PSCR First Responder UAS Innovation Challenge, Addressing Natural Disaster Search and Rescue Needs

*Ezassi supports NIST's Challenge, driving drone innovations for first responders in natural disaster search and rescue, addressing urgent public safety needs.*

JACKSONVILLE, FL, UNITED STATES, October 3, 2024 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Ezassi, a leader in innovation management and open innovation

solutions, is proud to support Ensemble Government Services contracted by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) division of Public Safety Communications Research (PSCR) for The First Responder Uncrewed Aircraft Systems (UAS) Challenge. This Challenge.gov initiative is driving critical advancements in drone technology for emergency response and aims

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Ezassi is proud to empower the NIST UAS Challenge, accelerating drone technology innovation to enhance first responder search and rescue capabilities in critical natural disasters.”

*Matthew Heim, PhD Chief Innovation Officer, Ezassi, Inc.*



**First Responder**  
UAS WIRELESS DATA GATHERER CHALLENGE

First Responder UAS Wireless Data Gatherer Challenge

to enhance search and rescue capabilities, particularly in response to natural disasters such as the recent severe flooding and landslides in Western North Carolina and the destructive storm surge on the Gulf Coast of Florida due to Hurricane Helene. Ezassi's Challenge-as-a-Service platform empowers organizations like NIST to find technological solutions for these urgent public safety challenges faster.

The First Responder UAS Wireless Data Gatherer Challenge (UAS 6.0) - organized by the National Institute of Standards and Technology's Public Safety Communications Research Division (NIST PSCR) in conjunction with Ensemble Consultancy - seeks to solve real-world operational issues faced by first responders, particularly in natural disaster

scenarios. The dire situation in communities across the southeast underscores the importance of innovative solutions to aid search and rescue missions in the wake of hurricanes, flash floods, wildfires, earthquakes, and other emergency situations. Uncrewed aerial system (UAS) technology offers the potential to provide critical real-time data to first responders, helping them locate and rescue individuals more efficiently and safely.

Stage 1 of the challenge recently concluded, and the [contest winners](#) have been recognized for their inspiring solutions aimed at improving response times and communication during emergencies. These forward-looking teams are leading the way in leveraging technology to save lives and better protect communities in crisis.

“Our work with NIST and Ezassi has been a game changer for exploring new UAS technology and advancing communications capabilities for first responders. Through Ezassi’s open innovation platform, we’ve been able to scout and identify breakthrough technologies that have real potential to boost Public Safety. It’s been a great collaboration, especially as we dive into UAS 6.0, helping to push the boundaries of what’s possible in emergency response. I cannot wait to see the end solutions and technologies that are produced because of this program,” says Ensemble’s Product and Strategy Director Oliver Gerland.

### Ezassi Helps Solve Technology Challenges

As recent natural disasters remind us, addressing complex problems like emergency response requires innovative thinking and collaboration across sectors. Through open innovation programs, organizations can tap into global expertise to develop solutions that not only address current needs but also help mitigate future risks.

Ezassi’s tools allow companies to host innovation challenges like the First Responder UAS 6.0 Challenge, and crowdsource ideas to solve pressing issues, such as enhancing drone sensing and communication technology and developing improved solutions for disaster resilience. This collaborative approach empowers innovation programs to tackle unmet needs in technology and public safety.

### Winners of Stage 1: Leading Research in Disaster Response Drone Innovation

The winners of Stage 1 of the UAS 6.0 Challenge have demonstrated visionary approaches to integrating drone wireless data gathering technology into disaster response, focusing on solutions for storms, earthquakes, wildfires, and radio complex outdoor environments. These teams are pioneering the future of public safety innovation with UAS and exemplify the type of forward-thinking leadership required to address the challenges posed by future environmental disasters.

In Stages 2 and 3 of the competition, contestants will build their enhanced UAS to fly, record attestation videos to measure the performance of their system and compete in a live event demonstrating their capabilities. Up to \$730,000 in total prize money will be awarded to competitors of UAS 6.0. For more information on the challenge and to participate, please visit <https://firstresponderuas.org/>.

### Corporate Open Innovation: A Call to Action

As natural disasters across the nation become more frequent and severe, the need for innovative, technology-driven solutions is urgent. Ezassi’s Challenge-as-a-Service provides

corporations with an efficient framework to crowdsource cutting-edge solutions, whether the focus is on safety, digital twin functionality, climate resilience, new energy solutions, or broader technology challenges specific to their industry. This platform is the bridge companies use to collaborate with startups, academic institutions, and external subject matter experts more efficiently creating resiliency and adaptability for the future.

#### About Ezassi

Ezassi is a leader in innovation management software, helping organizations accelerate their innovation initiatives through technology scouting, open innovation challenges, and idea management tools. With a robust suite of products and services, including Challenge-as-a-Service, Ezassi enables companies to engage with external innovators and solve complex challenges effectively.

For more information about Ezassi's Innovation Management solutions and how to launch an Innovation Challenge campaign, visit <https://ezassi.com/innovation-challenges-idea-contest/>.

#### About Ensemble Government Services

Ensemble Consultancy is a full-service SBA-certified 8(A) digital services provider committed to supporting digital transformation across the public sector. The company manages programs, delivering cloud-led solutions, application development, and marketing services to Federal initiatives like Challenge.gov.

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