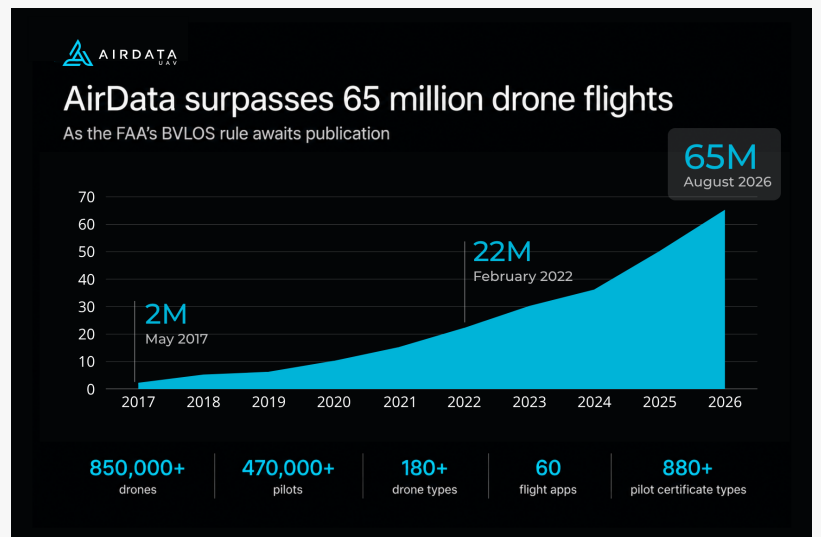


AirData surpasses 65 million drone flights as the FAA's BVLOS rule awaits publication

AirData, the operational intelligence platform powering the world's leading drone programs, announced it has passed 65 million drone flights.

CA, UNITED STATES, August 25, 2026 /EINPresswire.com/ -- AirData, the operational intelligence platform powering the world's leading drone programs, today announced it has passed 65 million drone flights, covering more than 850,000 drones and 470,000 pilots worldwide. The milestone comes as the FAA's final Part 108 rule for routine beyond visual line of sight (BVLOS) operations sits with the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, where it has been under review since July 10 and where it takes its last major step before publication.



AirData surpasses 65 million flights before Part 108 finalizes

“

65 million flights is not a vanity number for us. It is why we can tell an operator that one battery is aging differently from the other 19 packs of the same model on the same duty cycle.”

Eran Steiner, Founder and CEO, AirData

The pace has picked up. AirData passed 50 million flights in May 2025 and has added 15 million in the fifteen months since, a million flights a month. Some of that comes from existing programs getting larger. Some comes from organizations that now run drones as routine infrastructure instead of as pilot projects.

Those organizations are the ones Part 108 would govern. The rule moves accountability for a flight from the individual remote pilot to the operating organization, which becomes responsible for showing that its personnel are qualified, its aircraft are airworthy, and its operations

follow approved procedures. It requires the organization to maintain a flight data collection system, keep qualification and training records for its people, and show that the person overseeing a flight is current on the aircraft being flown. Flights, personnel, maintenance, and

incidents are the categories the rule names, and they are the categories AirData has captured for a decade. Scale is also what makes the analysis possible.

"Sixty five million flights is not a vanity number for us. It is why we can tell an operator that one battery is aging differently from the other nineteen packs of the same model on the same duty cycle. No single fleet is large enough to produce that comparison on its own."— Eran Steiner, Founder and CEO, AirData

Those flights come from 180+ drone types and 60 flight apps, so they reflect mixed fleets rather than a single vendor's ecosystem. AirData analyzes every battery cell after every flight and recognizes more than 880 pilot certificate types worldwide for currency tracking.

Pacific Gas and Electric flies across a 70,000-square-mile service area in California under a BVLOS waiver, and uses AirData to automate the flight, personnel, and maintenance evidence that waiver requires. Its program is an early example of the organization-level documentation Part 108 would apply more broadly.

"Implementing AirData has centralized our flight logging, compliance reporting, and maintenance tracking in an automated and proactive manner. This allows our pilots, technicians, and administrators to focus on their respective missions with confidence that regulations are being followed." — Kellen Kirk, Manager of UAS and Fixed Wing Operations, Pacific Gas and Electric

AirData is a member of the Commercial Drone Alliance and has published a business readiness guide for the rule, The AirData Blueprint: Operational readiness for the Part 108 era, available at engage.airdata.com/part-108-readiness. AirData will exhibit at Commercial UAV Expo, booth #914, September 1 to 3 at Caesars Forum, Las Vegas.



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About AirData

With more than 65 million flights, 850,000 drones, and 470,000 pilots, it holds the largest known dataset in commercial drone operations. AirData serves commercial operators and enterprise drone programs worldwide, supporting compliance with the FAA, CASA, Transport Canada, CAA, and other government agencies. Fleet readiness, maintenance tracking, certification tracking, and reporting work across the drones and flight apps teams already fly, with live video streaming available to enterprise programs. Learn more at airdata.com.

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