

Term / Acronym	Definition
2.4GHz	Common communications frequency used with UAVs (US)
433MHz	Common telemetry radio band (European)
5.8GHz	Common FPV radio band
900MHz	Common telemetry radio band (US)
(A)RTF	(Almost) Ready to Fly - a UAV (without) or with a transmitter and receiver included
Autonomous	Programmed or self-determined UAV operation not requiring pilot input
BNF	Bind and Fly - UAV requiring separate transmitter but includes receiver
COA	Certificate of Authorization - FAA waiver for airspace operations
CRADA	Also CRDA - Cooperative Research and Development Agreement
DIY	Do It Yourself - a UAV made from separate vendors' components
DSA	Detect See Avoid
EO Sensor	Electro-optical sensor for light in the optical spectrum (thermal to thermal IR)
FCS	Flight Control System; on-board UAV computer that enables stable flight
FLIR	Forward-Looking Infrared Radiometer
FMS	Flight Management System; stored or automated commands for UAV operation
FPV	First-Person View, flying with a "pilot" view transmitted to the pilot via video
FSDO	Flight Standards District Office, local/regional office of FAA
Gimbal	Device that compensates for UAV attitude to maintain sensor position
Hexcopter	Six-motor UAV configuration with 6 arms
HSI	Hyperspectral Imaging
IFR	Instrument Flight Rules
LiDAR	Light Detection and Ranging
LiPo	Lithium-polymer battery, commonly used in UAVs
Mode 2	Transmitter configuration with left stick throttle control (most common in US)
N Number	Aircraft Registration Number issued by the FAA
NAS	National Airspace System
Octocopter	Eight-motor UAV, either with 4 or 8 arms
PIC	Pilot in Command
Quadcopter	Four-motor UAV configuration with 4 arms
RPA	Remotely Piloted Aircraft
SAR	Synthetic Aperture Radar
Section 333	Section 333 Exemption from FAA Regulations
Telemetry	Information transmitted to and from the UAV and the pilot controller
UAS	Unmanned Aerial (Aircraft) System
UAV	Unmanned Aerial (Aircraft) Vehicle
VFR	Visual Flight Rules
VLOS	Visual Line of Sight
VNIR	Visible and Near Infrared
VO	Visual Observer
Y3 or Tricopter	3-motor UAV configuration with 3 arms
Y6	Six-motor UAV configuration with 3 arms each with two motors