

## **FPLAir Storm Operations**

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Florida Power and Light Company May 8, 2023



# The FPL Air team leads a variety of drone operations that provide valuable information to teams



## **Under 55lb Operations**

Crewed Flight Ops

Drone in the Box Ops

FPL Air One

NEER LIDAR Image Recognition

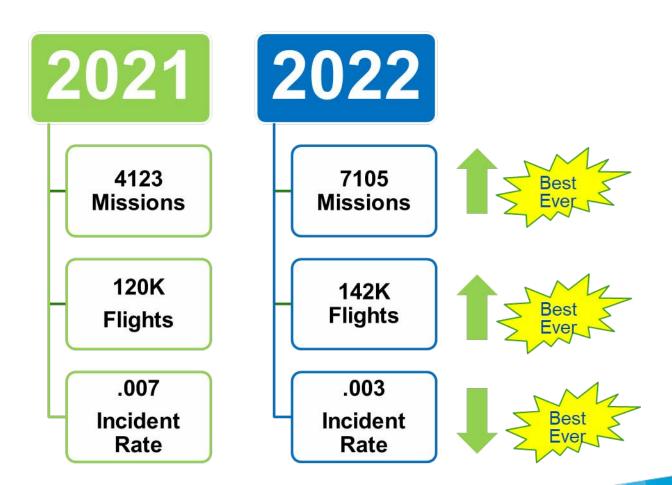
Machine Learning



#### Blue Sky operations have increased yearly since 2018

### **Operations Strategy**

- FPLAir Blue Sky Team
  - » NEE drone training program
    - Ground school/flight School
  - » Mission Scheduling
    - Receiving and assigning missions from customers
  - » Mission review and approvals
    - "Air Traffic Control"
  - » Safety and regulatory tracking of all flight operations





# The FPL Air Command Center provides visibility for all drone operations



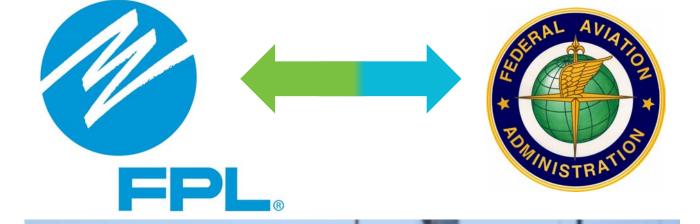




# FPL partnered with the FAA for the company's Safety Plan Program (PSP)

#### Operations

» Critical infrastructure inspections and storm response events



#### Integration Goals

- » BVLOS
- » Ops over people
- » One pilot to many UA's
- » Highly automated operations



#### PSP Extension

FAA has extended the PSP by three years to continue moving projects forward



#### FPLAir provided valuable insights during storm response

#### **UAS** pilot deployment strategy

- 20+ team members supporting deployment
  - » Incident Commander, FAA Compliance, Ops Lead, Service Leads
- Up to 300 UAS Pilots ready for deployment
  - » Pre-deployed to expected areas of impact
- Supporting Multiple Business units
  - » Transmission/Substation
  - » Distribution
  - » Vegetation
  - » Marketing & Communications
- New use cases implemented
  - » Staging site scans for insurance
- Standard staging site support (Distribution)
  - » 2 drones for distribution
  - » 1 drone for vegetation
  - » 1 drone for local staging site suppor







#### The top ways a UAS Pilot can assist during a storm

- 1. Assessment at storm <u>landfall</u> location
- 2. Pre and post storm landfall CA flights (vendor pilots)
- 3. Navigating <u>flooded</u> areas
- 4. Accessing damage to facilities due to tornadoes
- 5. Aerial images of any single <u>transmission/substation</u> <u>structure</u>
- 6. Any multiple distribution pole failure location
- 7. Imagery of <u>high vegetation</u> areas
- 8. Identifying issues at critical <u>crossings</u> (i.e. rivers, intercoastal, highways, etc.)
- 9. Navigating <u>inaccessible areas</u> due to road washouts, trees on road, etc.
- 10. Visual verification of major debris areas identified by media





Drone video can be live streamed while communicating with the drone pilot



# FPL conducted significant drone flights following Hurricane lan

#### **Small Drone Deployment**

- 66 Drone pilots deployed
- > 50,000+ Images (Irma had 10,000)
- New Business Cases
  - 3 117 substations flown within 24 hours
  - » 23 miles of inaccessible transmission structures flown





#### The Why...

#### **Summer 2017**

- 69 total UAS flown
- > 73 total people engaged
- ► 1,325 flights flown
- Average flight time was 13 minutes
- 286 hours of flight time
- > 7,000+ pictures taken
- ▶ 500+ videos taken









### FPL conducted the first-ever operational flight of FPLAir One

- Obtained first approvals by FAA for commercial drone use of this size for disaster response
- Seven missions flown
- Flight hours: 24.5
- Total distance flown: 2,249

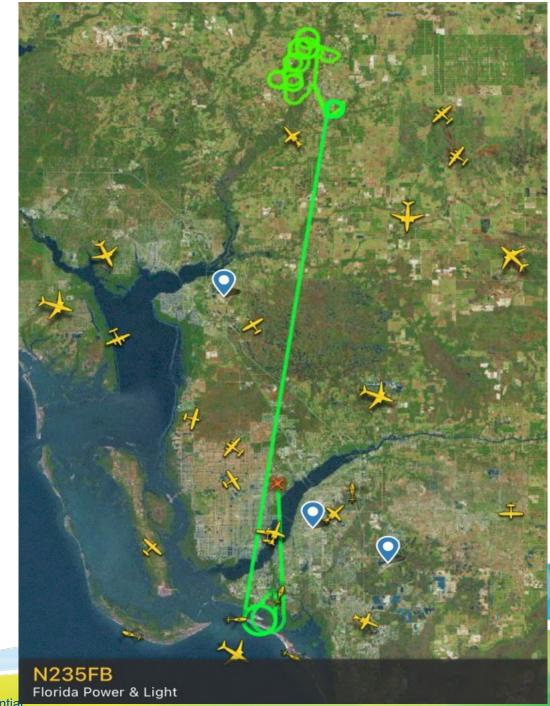




### **Hurricane Ian**







#### FPL conducted the first-ever operational flight of FPLAir One







