

La vision d'un organisme de recherche

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Biographie :

Dr-Ing. Christian Eschmann has been, since October 2018, the coordinator for the strategic topic of unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) at the German Aerospace Center (DLR) – the national aeronautics and space research centre of the Federal Republic of Germany.

As the Coordinator UAS, he is the first point of contact for all activities regarding unmanned flight at DLR as well as for governmental ministries and agencies, research bodies, and the industry. In addition, Christian is the DLR Liaison Officer to the European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) and leads the “Urban Air Mobility” thematic programme within the Future Sky initiative of the Association of European Research Establishments in Aeronautics (EREA).

Previously, Christian worked as head of department for RWTH Aachen University and as a researcher at the Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft. He holds a Ph.D. and a M.Sc. in Aerospace Engineering, both from RWTH and with the focus on unmanned aircraft systems.

Christian is also a reserve officer at the German Army, where he was for several years the head of Flight Operations and deputy head of Operations at a NH90 helicopter base, and since 2018 serving as a desk officer at the German Federal Ministry of Defence (BMVg).

Résumé :

In times of increasing automation a variety of new possibilities for applications arise - both in the civil and in the military sector. This also applies to aviation, which has to deal with new concepts in addition to the current discussions on sustainability and climate. The worldwide hype concerning air taxis and the new field of Urban Air Mobility is currently a hot topic, and these innovative technology ideas promise the complete upheaval of previous mobility models and the introduction of new transport modes. The topic of automation is closely associated with the development of pilotless systems with the long-term goal of autonomy. However, this aspect quickly leads to the important criteria of safety and security, which at the same time represent the decisive factors in civil aviation, especially from the point of view of social acceptance. A further aspect is the reorganization of existing infrastructures and the redesign of current city concepts, not to mention the essential implementation of national and European regulations for such systems. The presentation will give – from the point of view of a research organization – an insight into and an outlook on all relevant aspects associated with the automation and autonomy of unmanned systems.