

PG&E - Marketing & Communications | UAS Drone Conference - Recap_v2

We're here in San Ramon at the Roundhouse Conference Center. We're having our first ever UAS conference for PG&E. One of the things drones provides is that there is a level of efficiency. You don't have to wait for the lineman, or troubleman, or decision maker, to get on site. You can fly it from a different vantage point, and you can get equal to or better results.

PG&E has one of the more robust and mature UAS programs for a utility in the country. We have projects with gas, security, hydro. And then our transmission, distribution, and substation, inspection program which is probably the largest, if not one of the largest in the country.

So there is risk to operating a drone around critical infrastructure. But there's also a reward to removing a human being from that situation. Any time you can remove a truck rolling or a person on site around highly energized infrastructure is a win and it's going to be a huge safety impact to the program. We probably don't need to be hand flying drones, much in the future. If we can teach these drones with AI and great computer programming to do a lot of this automatically or autonomously, that's where we need to be.

And programs like PG&E that have established over the last several years great safety records, are going to allow the FAA to say, hey, they're doing it the right way, they're doing it safely, let's allow them to expand and push the envelope and fly beyond visual line of sight. Give them the certifications and the authorizations to do that and make it safer.

[MUSIC PLAYING]