

Finance and Corporate Services
Information Management

4 September 2012
FOIA reference: F0001381

Dear XXXX

I am writing in respect of your recent application of 6 August 2012, for the release of information held by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA).

Your request:

Please provide the value of any payments to the CAA and/or CAA International from the Astraea consortium.

Please provide the above information each year for the financial years 2005/6 to 2011/12 inclusive.

Please also provide the detail of any payments made in financial year 2012/13 to date.

If possible please provide any information about the services provided by CAA/CAA International to Astraea in return for the above payments.

Our response:

In assessing your request in line with the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA), we are pleased to be able to provide the information below.

The UK Civil Aviation Authority's (CAA) role in the ASTRAEA project is to provide advice to the ASTRAEA partners relating to airworthiness certification and operation of an Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) concept. The ASTRAEA project is aimed entirely at exploring design concepts and identifying potential risk scenarios within and between the various systems and functional/operational interfaces.

This work is facilitated via a commercial contract between ASTRAEA and CAA International (CAAi). CAAi is a wholly owned subsidiary of the CAA.

The services provided by CAA have been conducted in 2 phases: phase 1 ran from 2007 to 2009 and phase 2, which started in 2010, is scheduled for completion by the end of the 2012/13 fiscal year.

The purpose of phase 1 was for the CAA to give general advice to the ASTRAEA consortium in regard to CAA's policy that UAS operating in the UK must meet at least the same safety and operational standards as manned aircraft. Specifically, the CAA provided advice to the ASTRAEA partners on the various technology projects that made up the first phase of the programme.

Civil Aviation Authority

Aviation House GW Gatwick Airport South Crawley West Sussex England RH6 0YR www.caa.co.uk
Telephone 01293 768512 rick.chatfield@caa.co.uk

The purpose of phase 2 of the project is for the CAA to give more detailed advice regarding the airworthiness certification and operational challenges associated with the four major technology theme programmes. These technology themes have been defined by the ASTRAEA partners as;

- Autonomy & Decision Making,
- Ground Operations & Human Systems Interaction,
- Communications, Security & Spectrum and
- Sense & Avoid

This phase follows a process similar to that used for certification of a manned aircraft and as such is referred to as a Virtual Certification Programme. The Virtual Certification Programme is aimed at helping the ASTRAEA consortium identify a route they could follow if the project was continued to achieve actual certification and operational approval for a UAS, particularly for the systems that are unique to a UAS such as Autonomy & Decision Making and Sense & Avoid.

The ASTRAEA project has enabled the CAA to better understand the developing technologies within the UAS sector and thus has helped CAA to participate in the European and International regulatory fora, where we are contributing to the development of suitable safety standards for the future.

For phase one of the ASTRAEA programme, CAA charged a total of £39,000 between 2007 and 2009.

For phase two, total charges in 2011/12 were £14,000. In 2012/13, charges to date are approximately £76,000, however, we anticipate that through to phase completion, a further £70,000 may be charged.

If you are not satisfied with how we have dealt with your request in the first instance you should approach the CAA in writing at:-

Mark Stevens
External Response Manager
Civil Aviation Authority
Aviation House
Gatwick Airport South
West Sussex
RH6 0YR

mark.stevens@caa.co.uk

The CAA has a formal internal review process for dealing with appeals or complaints in connection with Freedom of Information requests. The key steps in this process are set in the attachment.

Should you remain dissatisfied with the outcome you have a right under Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act to appeal against the decision by contacting the Information Commissioner at:-

Information Commissioner's Office
FOI/EIR Complaints Resolution
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF
www.ico.gov.uk/complaints.aspx

Should you wish to make further Freedom of Information requests, please use the e-form at <http://www.caa.co.uk/foi>.

Yours sincerely

Rick Chatfield
FoIA & EIR Case Manager

CAA INTERNAL REVIEW & COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE

- The original case to which the appeal or complaint relates is identified and the case file is made available;
- The appeal or complaint is allocated to an Appeal Manager, the appeal is acknowledged and the details of the Appeal Manager are provided to the applicant;
- The Appeal Manager reviews the case to understand the nature of the appeal or complaint, reviews the actions and decisions taken in connection with the original case and takes account of any new information that may have been received. This will typically require contact with those persons involved in the original case and consultation with the CAA Legal Department;
- The Appeal Manager concludes the review and, after consultation with those involved with the case, and with the CAA Legal Department, agrees on the course of action to be taken;
- The Appeal Manager prepares the necessary response and collates any information to be provided to the applicant;
- The response and any necessary information is sent to the applicant, together with information about further rights of appeal to the Information Commissioners Office, including full contact details.