



A TIME SYNCHRONIZATION PROTOCOL FOR UAS

RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP FALL 2021

Marcos Fernandez-Tous Aerospace Sciences Ph.D.

Image source: https://www.exfo.com/en/resources/blog/timing-synchronization-5g-networks/

SUCCINT PROFILE



- Ms.C. Aeronautical Engineering (Polytechnic University Madrid).
- 20 years of experience in aviation.
- Ph.D. Aerospace Sciences (UND).
- Research Fellowship Fall 2021.





FUTURE UAS TRENDS

- 850,000 UAS registered in the U.S.
 - 37% commercial purposes.

Predicted value of drones by industry



Source: PwC, as cited in Insider Intelligence, Feb. 10, 2020

TIME SYNCHRONIZATION



Time Division Multiple Access. Slots allocation



time

GPS TIME

A world time reference.

Cs and Rb clocks (accuracy: 100 nsec).



Limitations:

DoD ownership.

Jamming/spoofing exposure.

RECEIVER ONLY SYNCHRONIZATION PROTOCOL



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DUTY CYCLE





RESULTS: OBSERVATIONS AND ITERATIONS



RESULTS: DUTY CYCLE- ACCURACY



CONCLUSIONS: GENERAL SUMMARY

- A time synchronization protocol analyzed under UAS perspective.
- Fully efficient.
 - Accurate (with a sufficient number of observations).
 - Small variation of results.



NASA STRATEGIC GOAL 3

"Address National Challenges and

Catalyze Economic Growth."

• Expanded use of drones for economic and societal benefit.

NASA 2022 Strategic Plan



LESSONS LEARNED



Talk to experts (do something useful).

Look for funding.

Future plans.

REFERENCES (FOR THIS PRESENTATION)

Globe Newswire (2021, September 07). Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) market size to hit US 36 \$Bn by 2030. https://www.globenewswire.com/news-release/2021/09/07/2292615/0/en/Unmanned-Aerial-Vehicle-UAV-Market-Size-to-Hit-US-36-Bn-by-2030.html

Insider Intelligence. (2020, February 10). *Commercial Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) market analysis- Industry trends, forecasts and companies*. https://www.businessinsider.com/commercial-uav-market-analysis

