









# Multi-Modal Autonomy: Validation and Management

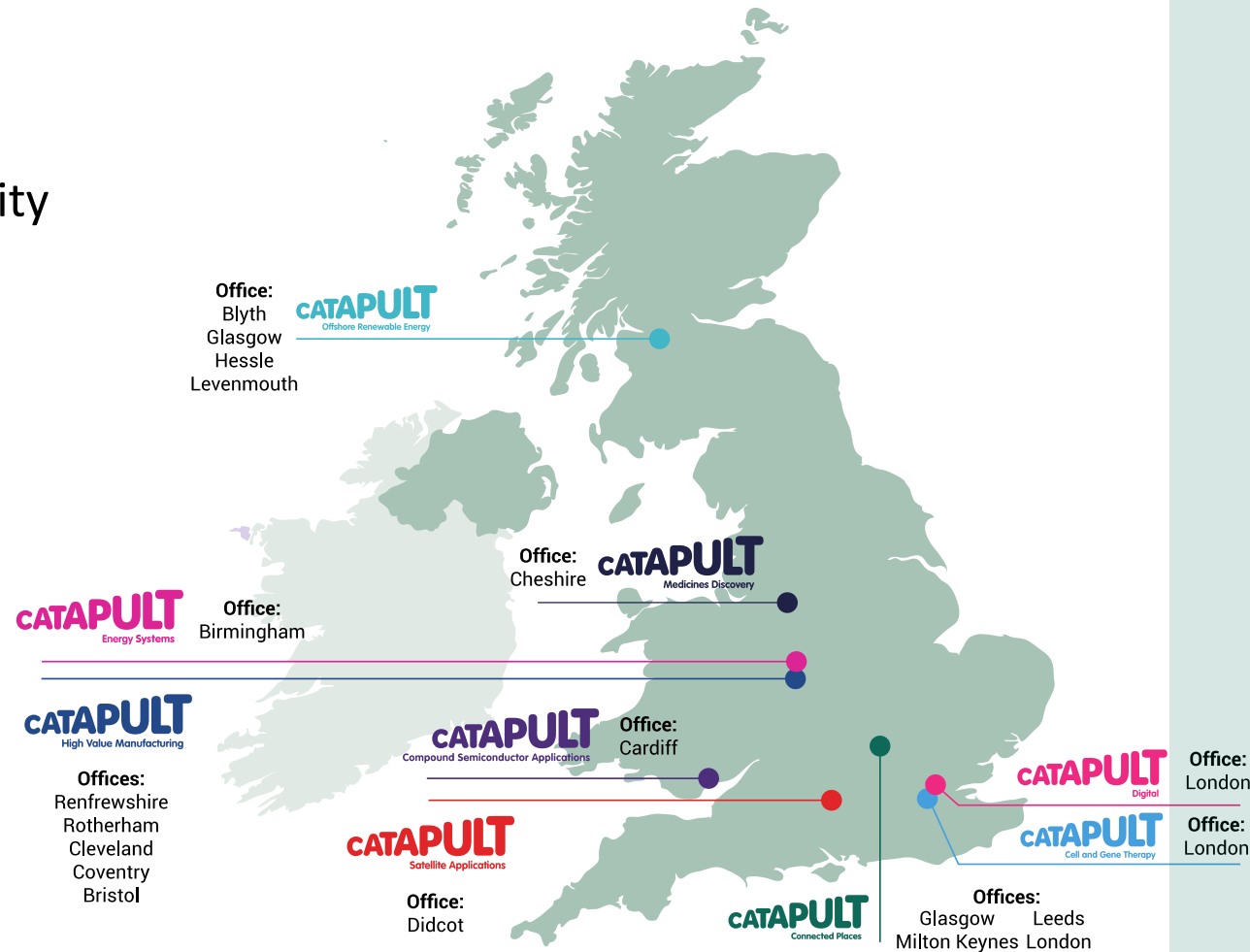
Connected Places Catapult

# Catapults – a force for innovation and growth

A network of world leading centres designed to transform and accelerate the UK's capability for innovation and future Economic growth.

## Our mission

To help British businesses address the grand challenges of today in order to create connected places, fit for the future.



# Accelerating the industrial strategy

The Industrial Strategy outlines four Grand Challenges which places must address in delivering successful growth, but which also represent commercial opportunities for innovators. *These are:*



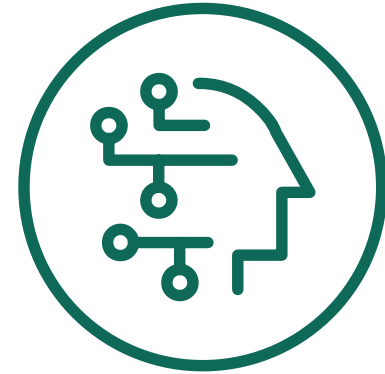
The Future of Mobility



Clean Growth



Ageing Society



AI and Data

With population and development both concentrated in urban areas, innovation in and around the places we live promises to positively impact each of these challenges, with the fourth (AI) playing a vital enabling role.

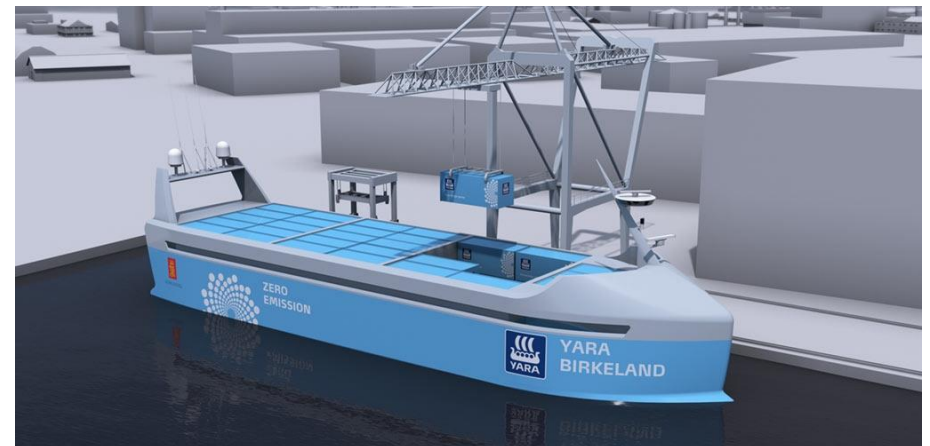


# Accelerating the Industrial Strategy





## Accelerating the Industrial Strategy



# Barriers to Technology

1970s



Today





# Barriers to Technology

1970s



Today



**Validation**



# Barriers to Technology

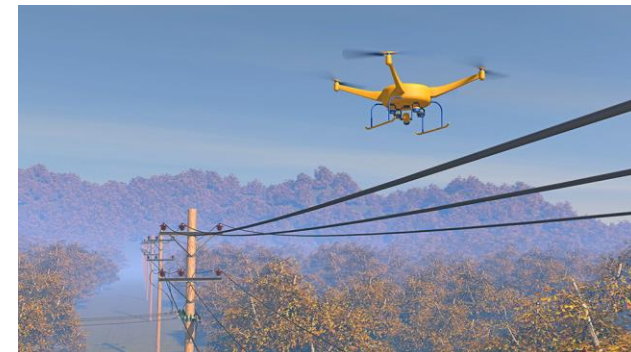
1970s



Today



**Validation**





# Barriers to Technology

1970s



Today



**Validation**



**Management**



# Barriers to Technology - Validation



“In the U.S., approximately **one fatality occurs for every 100 million miles** driven. To prove with **95% confidence** that a driverless car achieves, at least, this rate of reliability by driving them around to see, it would require they be driven **275 million miles without a fatality**. With a fleet of 100 autonomous vehicles (larger than any known existing fleet) driving 24/7, it would take more than **12 years** to drive these miles.”

The challenge within the automotive industry is **how to demonstrate ‘correct’ performance**.





# Simulation and Virtual Validation



Example vehicle  
simulation tools



## Objectives and approach



### Objectives:

- Create a standard language to describe scenarios
- Build an open, extensible library of scenarios for CAV certification
- Focus on simulation testing environments



## Objectives and approach



### Objectives:

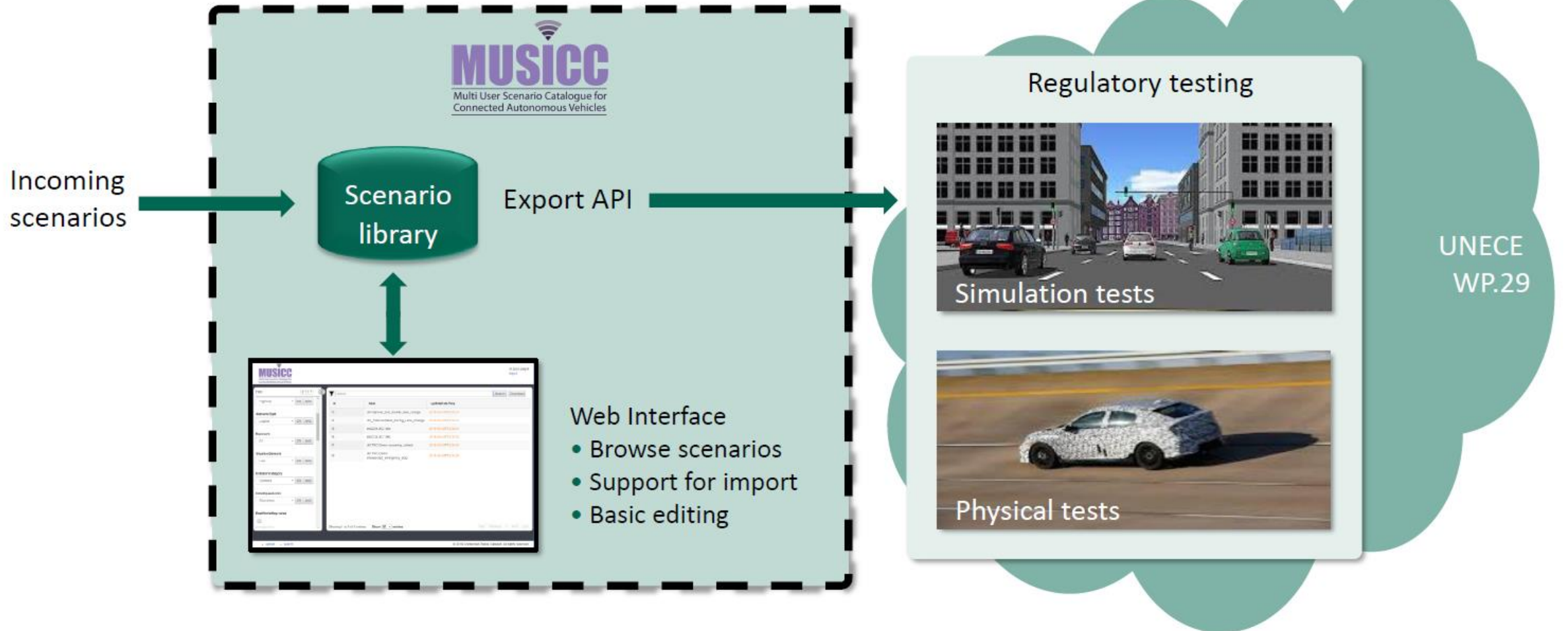
- Create a standard language to describe scenarios
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### Approach:

- 12-month proof-of-concept demonstration project
- Close collaboration with vehicle manufacturers, developers, organisations with expertise in CAV validation and international regulators
- Define a scenario format based on a wide consultation
- Enable openly-accessible scenario platform



## Objectives and approach





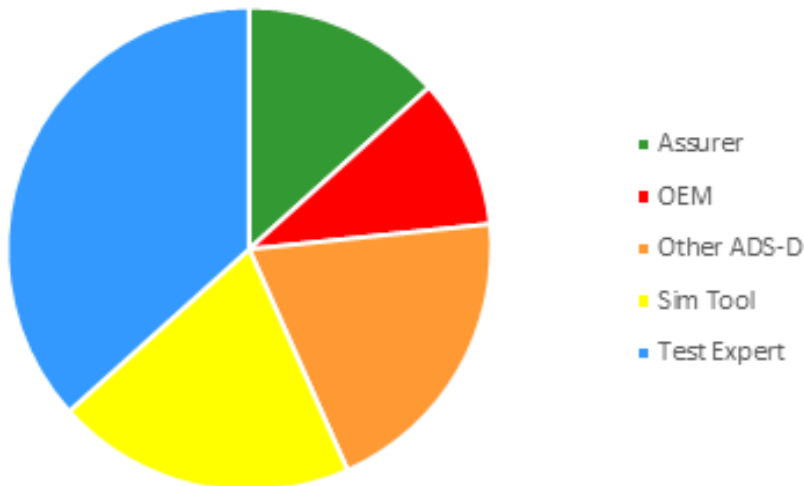
# MUSICC: Workshop

## International Workshop

- Industry and academic delegates invited to a workshop
- Introduce the project
- Get industry consensus on key questions around scenario database



Participants' Distribution



Centre for Connected  
& Autonomous Vehicles



dSPACE



BOSCH



Thatcham  
Research  
Safer cars, fewer crashes



MIRA TRL



Loughborough  
University



## Session 1: Scenario Representation

- Rich detail in scenarios is important
- Variation of scenario parameters is essential
- Scenarios as a layered description (e.g road network, traffic, moveable objects, weather)
- Non-intelligent actor vehicles



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## Session 2: Implementation by a Regulator

- Simulation is essential to address the testing challenge. Some level of physical testing still required
- Simulation tools used would need to meet some minimum, validated standard of performance
- Test scenarios would need to be agnostic to the implementation (i.e. of sensors and actuators)
- Tests need have variation within bounded limits, but should be repeatable

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## Session 3: Next Steps

- OpenScenario format the overwhelming recommendation for the language
- Extend language to include meta-data search fields



## Language: OpenScenario



“project for the establishment of generally accepted quality criteria, tools and methods as well as scenarios and situations for the release of highly-automated driving functions”

<https://www.pegasusprojekt.de/en/about-PEGASUS>



“OpenSCENARIO is an open file format for the description of dynamic contents in driving simulation applications”

<http://www.openscenario.org/>

# Language: OpenScenario

## Example - Overtaking

### storyboard

**story:** owner = player 1

**act 1:** condition = start of simulation

**sequence 1.1:** actor = \$owner

**maneuver 1.1.1:** name = accelerate, stay in Ego lane

**event 1.1.1.1:** condition = upon start of act

**action 1.1.1.1.1:** acquire  $v_{\text{Target}} = v_{\text{Ego}} + 5.6\text{m/s}$  with  $4\text{m/s}^2$

**action 1.1.1.1.2:** keep lane

**event 1.1.1.2:** condition = after termination of action 1.1.1.1.1

**action 1.1.1.2.1:** keep speed

**act 2:** condition = TTC to Ego < 0.742s

**sequence 2.1:** actor = \$owner

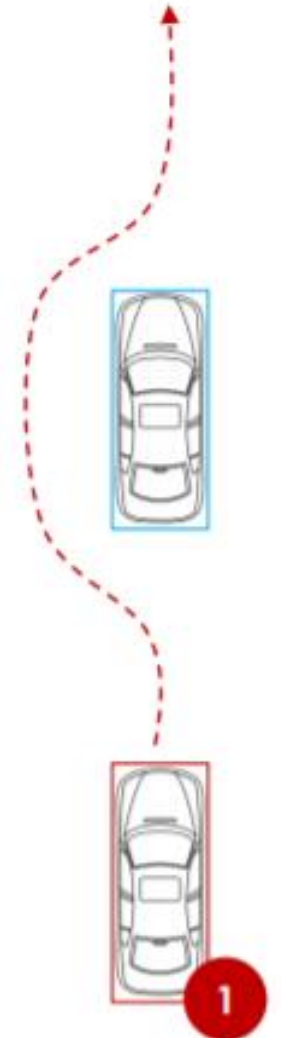
**maneuver 2.1.1:** name = perform two lane changes

**event 2.1.1.1:** condition = upon start of act

**action 2.1.1.1.1:** perform lane change to the left within 2s

**event 2.1.1.2:** condition = longitudinal distance to Ego > 2m

**action 2.1.1.2.1:** perform lane change to the right within 1.89s



Example language structure from openscenario.org



To make the implementation of OpenScenario more useful in the context of a database, we added:

- **Metadata**

- Allows queries to find the correct set of scenarios corresponding to the ODD of the ADS under test
- Scenario-specific data (e.g. situation demand  $\approx$  difficulty)
- ODD-aligned data (e.g. weather, road features)
- Ego and actor actions (e.g. turn across traffic, emergency stop)
- Additionally, support 'tagging' scenarios

- **Parameter stochastics**

- Allows variables in the scenario to have values chosen according to a probability distribution
- Prevents design-to-test
- Increases test space coverage

# MetaData: Link functionally equivalent scenarios

Used to manage scenarios with the same 'story'

## Example:

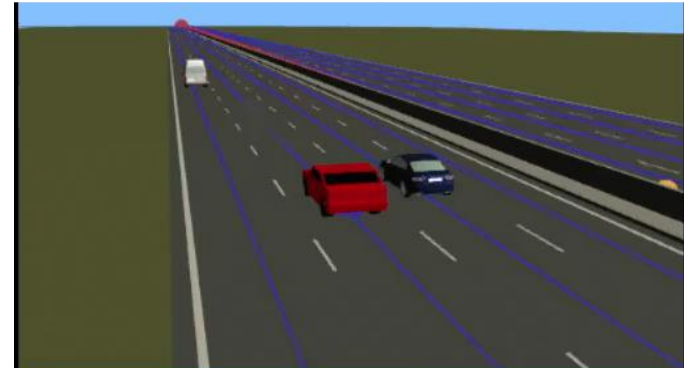
ADS updated to  
improve  
performance in  
cut-in scenario

3 lane – GB



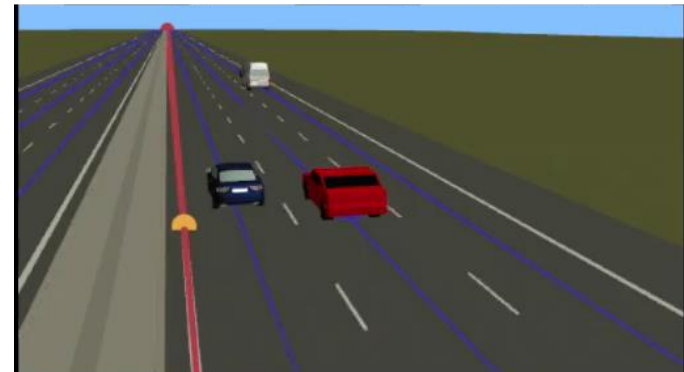
Search for other  
scenarios with the  
same label

4 lane – GB



Test ADS on similar  
(but not identical)  
scenarios

3 lane – FR

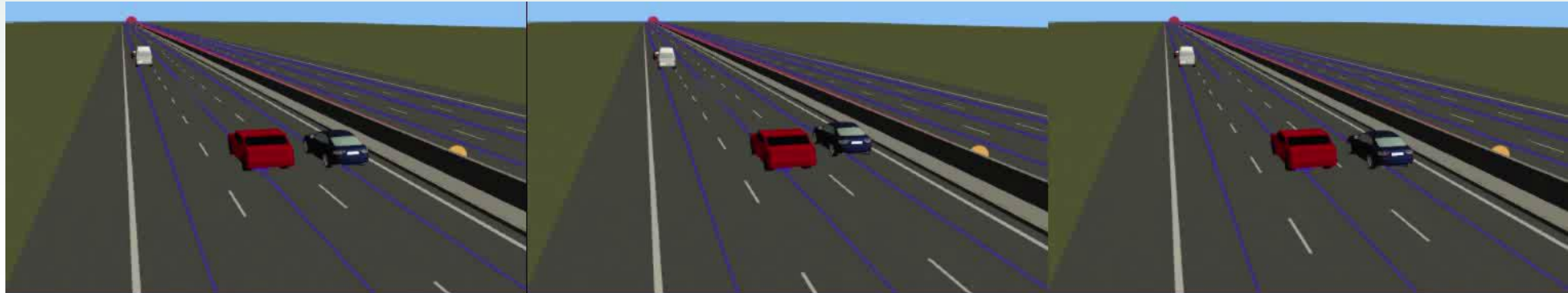




# Parameter Stochastics: Randomisation

Generates multiple concrete scenarios from each logical

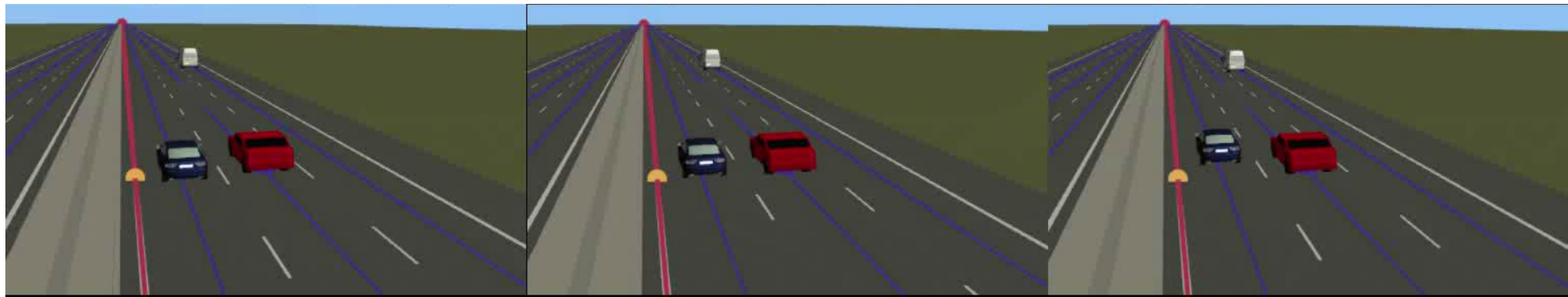
3 lane – GB



4 lane – GB



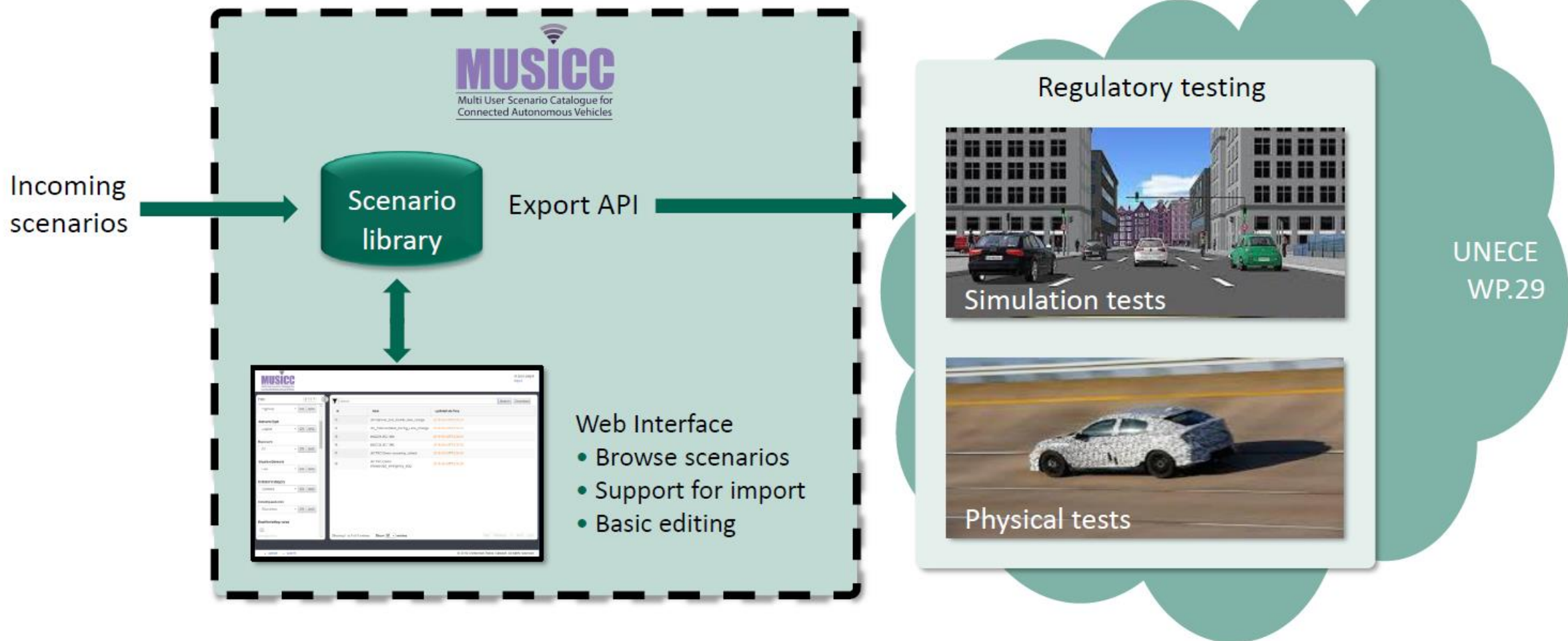
3 lane – FR



## Objectives and approach



Department  
for Transport





# Ongoing Questions

There are still a number of questions to address in respect of virtual validation approaches:

- How should the scenarios be captured, curated and accessed?
- Separate tests for the perception systems / hardware?
- How can we ensure confidence in the simulation tools?
- What should be the balance of simulation, closed-road testing and public road testing?
- Can simple pass / fail criteria work in this context?



More general challenge:

- Integrating autonomous vehicle fleet with conventional vehicles





# Unmanned Traffic Management



The integration of unmanned drone flight with each other and with conventional aircraft is a **barrier to deployment**

- 1 year project laying the groundwork for how unmanned craft could be integrated with each other and with conventional aircraft
- Sponsored by Department for Transport
- Worked alongside industry and academia:
  - NATS
  - Altitude Angel
  - ANRA Technologies
  - Cranfield University
  - Satellite Applications Catapult
  - Thales UK

The cover image features a dark green header with the title 'Connected Places Catapult' in white, followed by a horizontal white line. Below this, the subtitle 'Towards a UTM System for the UK' is displayed in large white font, with 'Preparing the UK for the Commercial Drone Industry' in a smaller white font underneath. The main visual is a photograph of a black quadcopter drone flying in the upper left, and a large white commercial jet airplane flying in the lower right, both against a blue sky with scattered white clouds. The 'CATAPULT' logo, with the tagline 'Connected Places' below it, is positioned in the bottom right corner of the image.

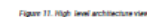
## Towards a UTM System for the UK

or Good (or FND) has been generated from discussions around how this data is made accessible by others in a straightforward manner. The FND including its principal information may be summarised as a particular example all information exchange transactions are routed back and forth through a D service. This instantiation was used as a 'point of departure' for initial research discussions.

Table 2. *Flight planning research areas*

Architecture is a representation of how roles and responsibilities for UTM services are distributed among participating stakeholders. Building consensus about the architecture and developing the roles and responsibilities of stakeholders is an important step in the advancement of any UTM initiative.

This view can be visualized in the figure 11, to show how the UTM architecture might be organised to enable communications and data exchange activities between actors.



Open UTM Service

Intensive data exchange activity will likely be between the UTMSP and The Open UTM Service, enabling the request and submit operation related information for the operator, and also engage with the relevant UTM including the Registration service system, Flight Noticeboard services, the TTI repository, and other relevant systems described.

engagement across these services is expected to be carried out on a high frequency basis that is not using today's conventional processes. Therefore, significant time and effort will be required to transition from a slow paper based process, and develop digital and automated solutions.

**USPs:** are expected to engage with authorized USPs to improve their service offerings. This is expected to occur on an opt-in basis, with the USPs free to work with relevant data and service providers to deliver better services to users.

**UTMSPs:**  
 2 will engage with other UTMSPs. This will primarily be done in two instances: **a)** during inter-UTMSP activity, and **b)** alerting UTMSPs with operators neighbouring a vicinity with a non-conforming drone.

with the UTMSPs, a UTMSP (say, UTMSP A) would be expected to engage with the registration service to communicate details of the target UTMSP (UTMSP D) – e.g. IP addresses. UTMSP A can also directly inform multiple UTMSPs – effectively directly publishing information necessary to deconflict airspace and so on.

ing section describes the journey of the UTMSP through engagement of a drone operation. As before, it is divided into the pre-flight phase, and the in-flight and post-flight phases, and is illustrated in

**Phase**

The journey closely follows the journey of the drone operator due to the continuous and direct engagement with parties. These figures show the engagements with the relevant data sources and services that are for the UTMSP to make appropriate decisions – i.e. validation of the operator, approve proposed flight plans, carrying out recurring checks to ensure minimal disruption to airspace activities.



Architecture for **an open access UTM system** and scenarios for important areas such as **managing permissions** to fly drones in restricted airspace and multiple drone operations in in uncontrolled airspace.



# Unmanned Flight



# Unmanned Flight

**CATAPULT**  
Connected Places



# Unmanned Traffic Management



## UAS Operator

Individual or enterprise responsible for the safe control and operation of their vehicle



## ATM Service Provider

Interface to the conventional ATM

## UTM Service Provider

Enable UAS operators to integrate unmanned vehicles into the national airspace (flight planning)



## Supplementary Data Service Provider

Supplimentary information, for example weather



## Public Authorities

May need to coordinate access to airspace and if needed impact operations of UAS

## Regulator

Ensure safe operation of the airspace through regulatory and operational frameworks



# Unmanned Traffic Management (UTM)

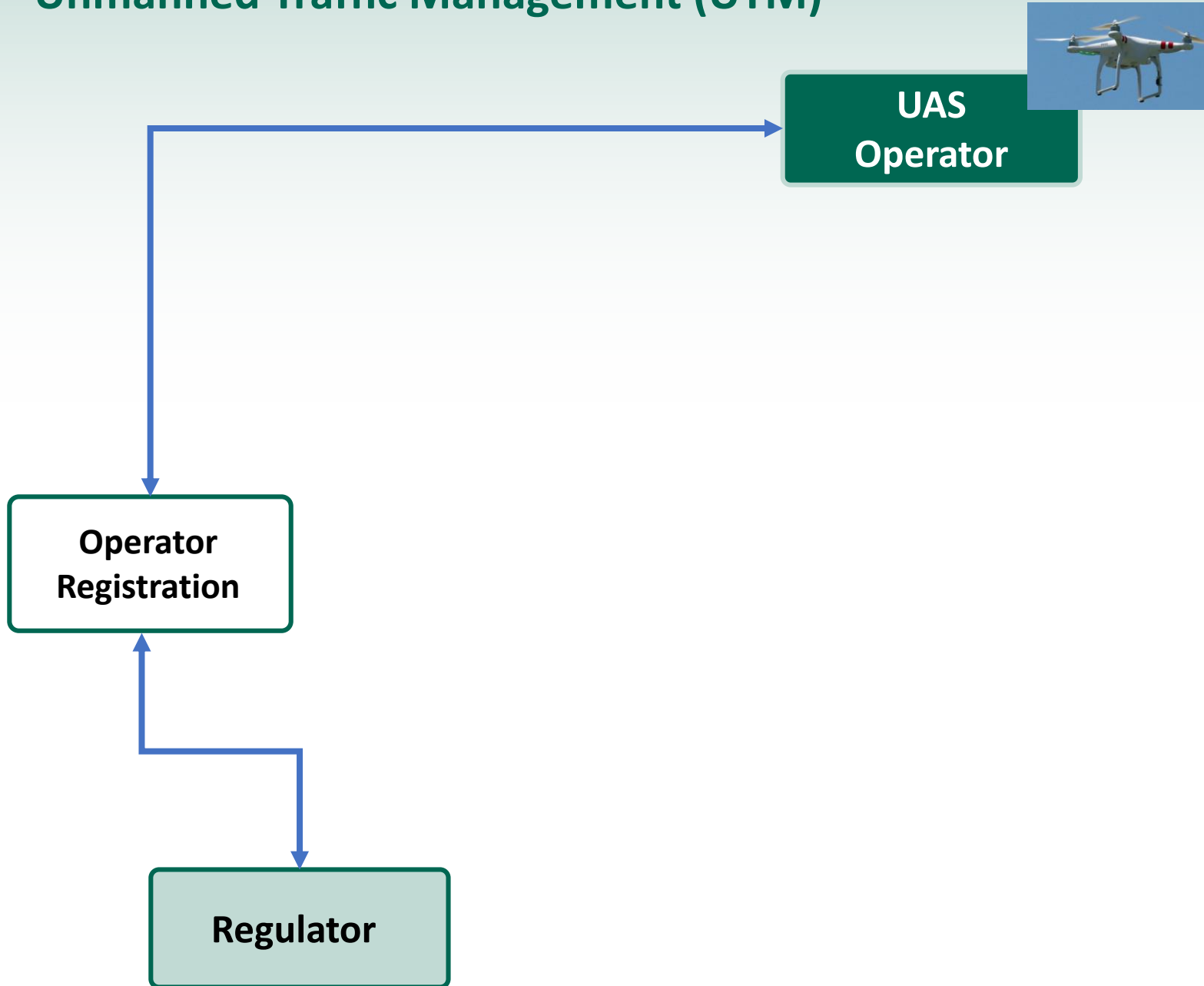
UAS  
Operator



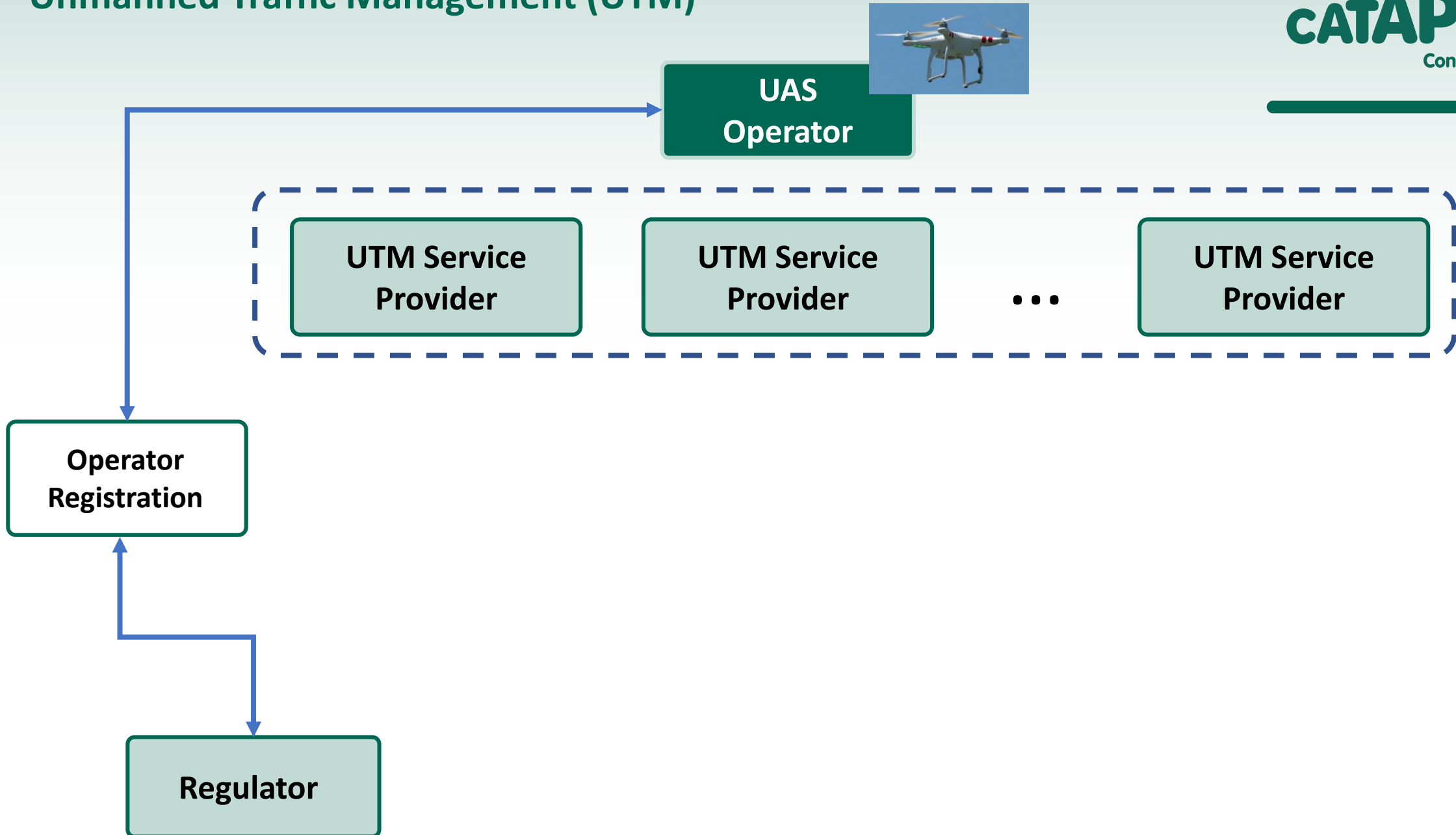
**CATAPULT**  
Connected Places

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# Unmanned Traffic Management (UTM)

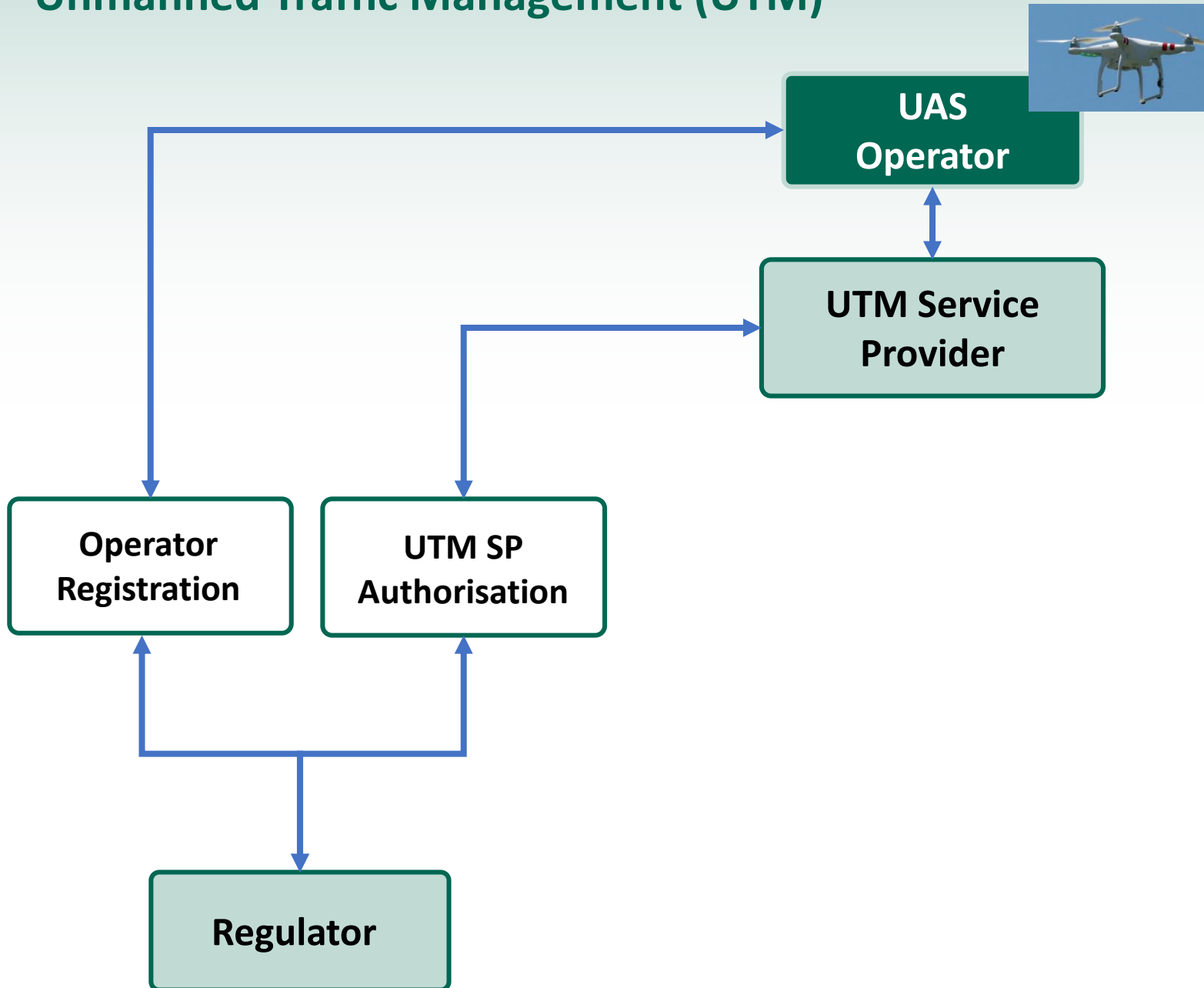


# Unmanned Traffic Management (UTM)

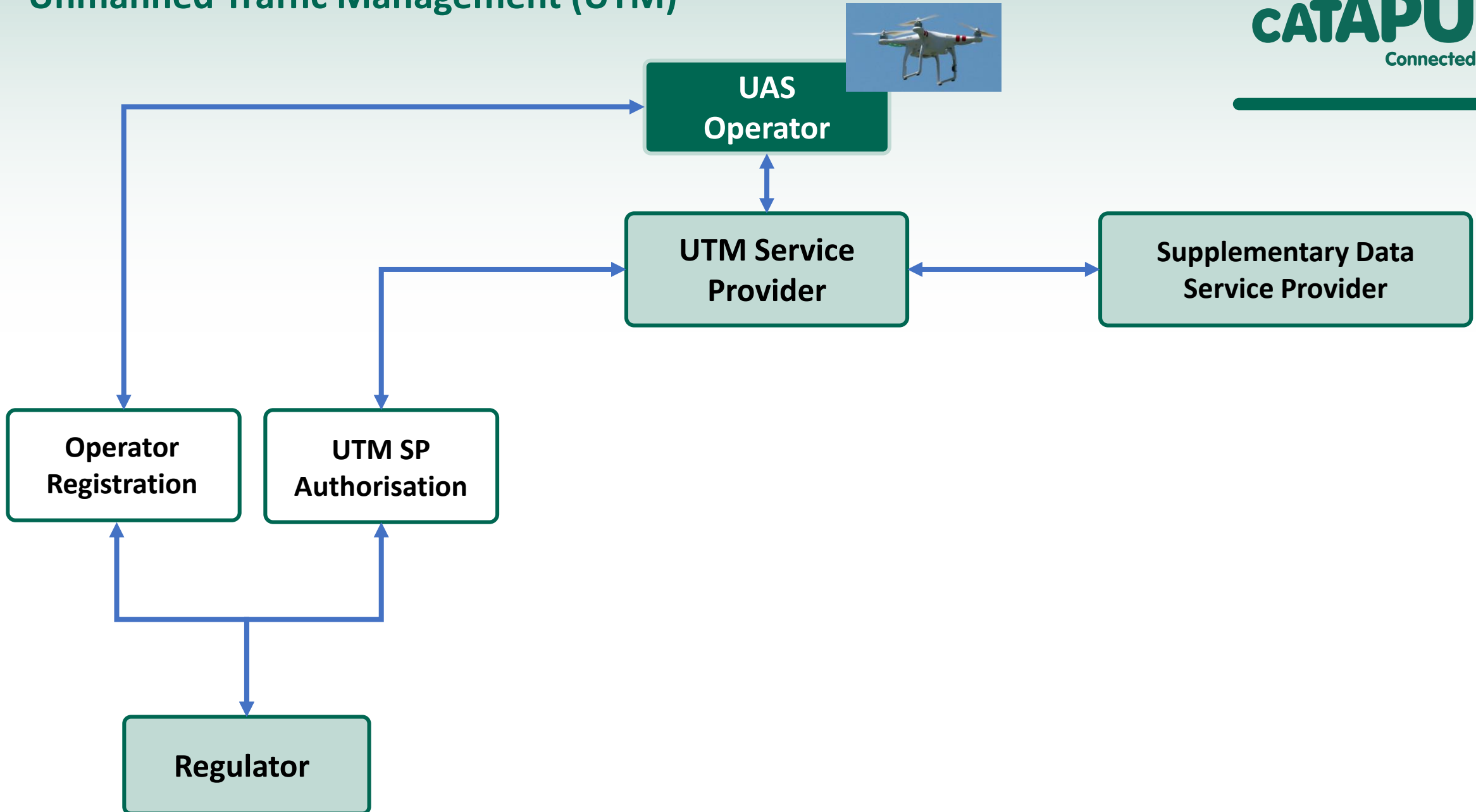




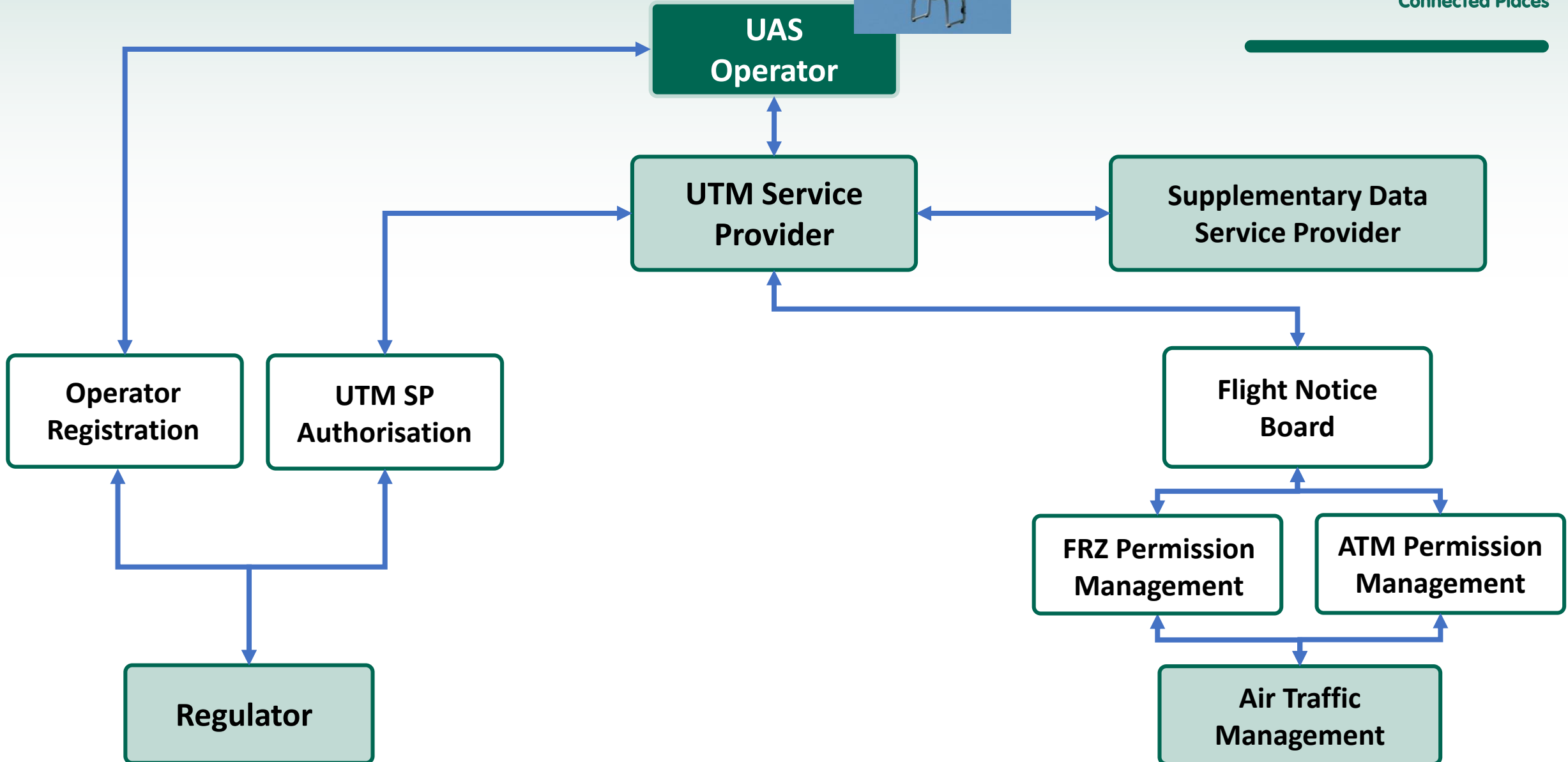
# Unmanned Traffic Management (UTM)



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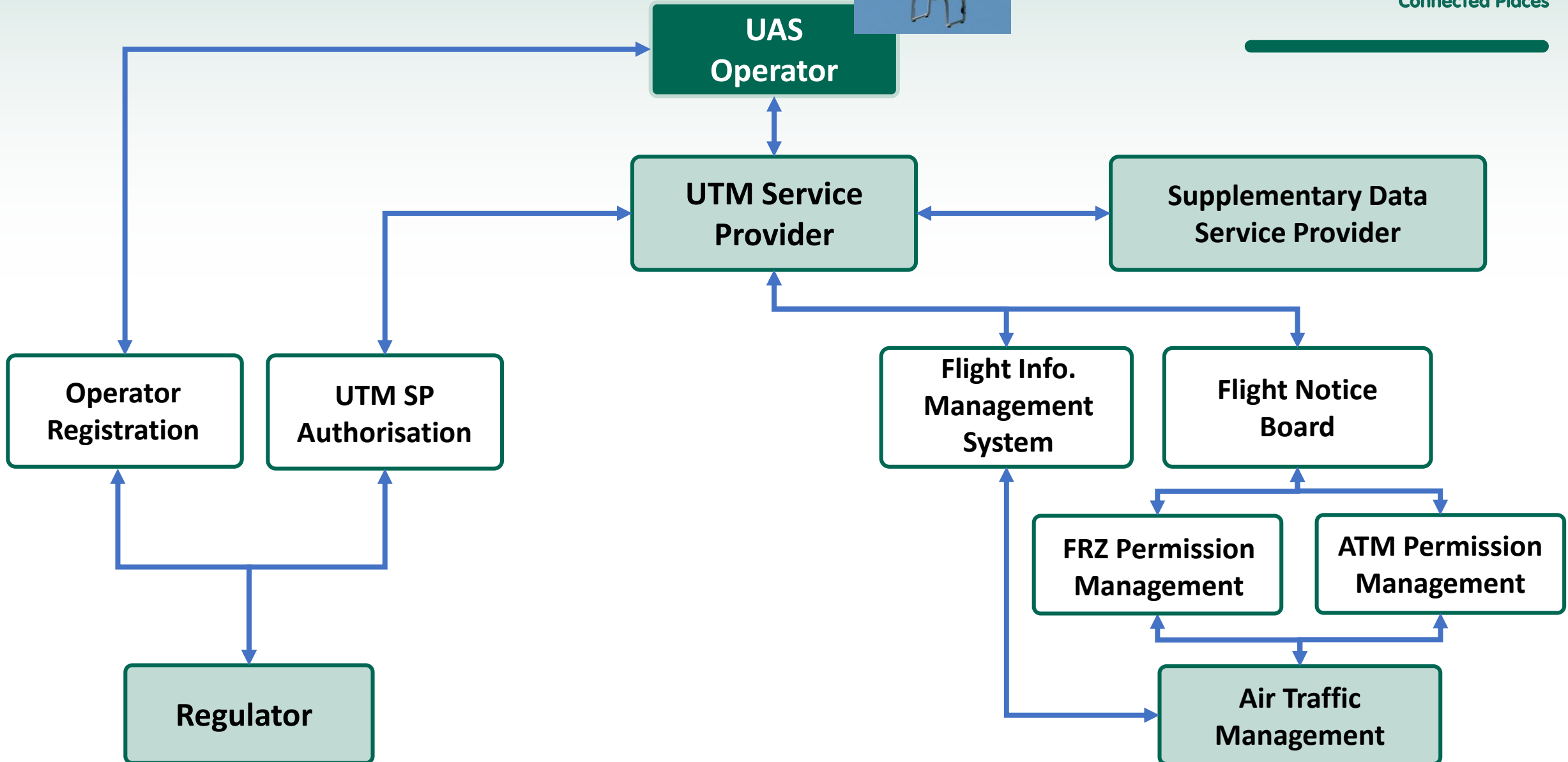


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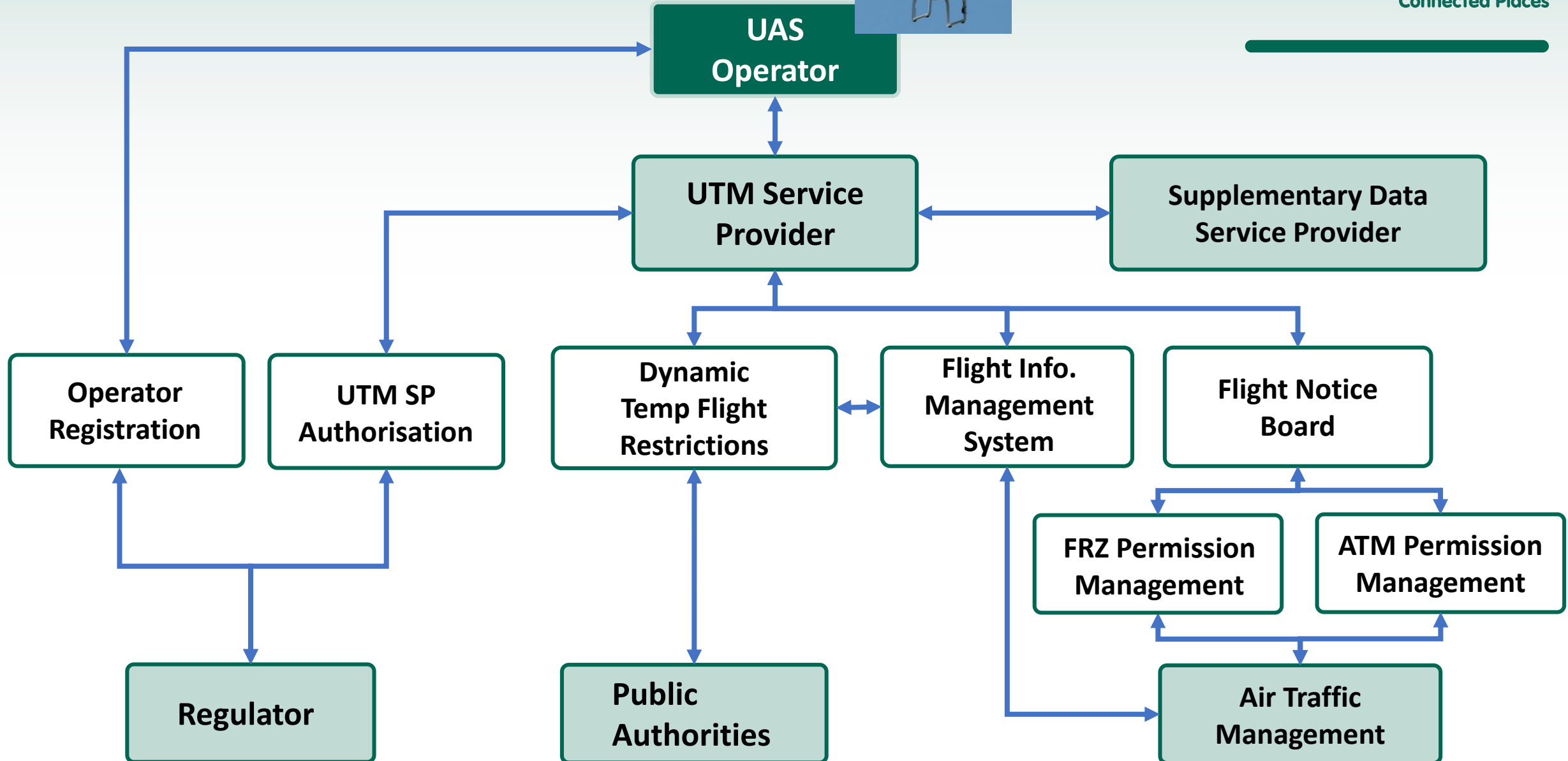




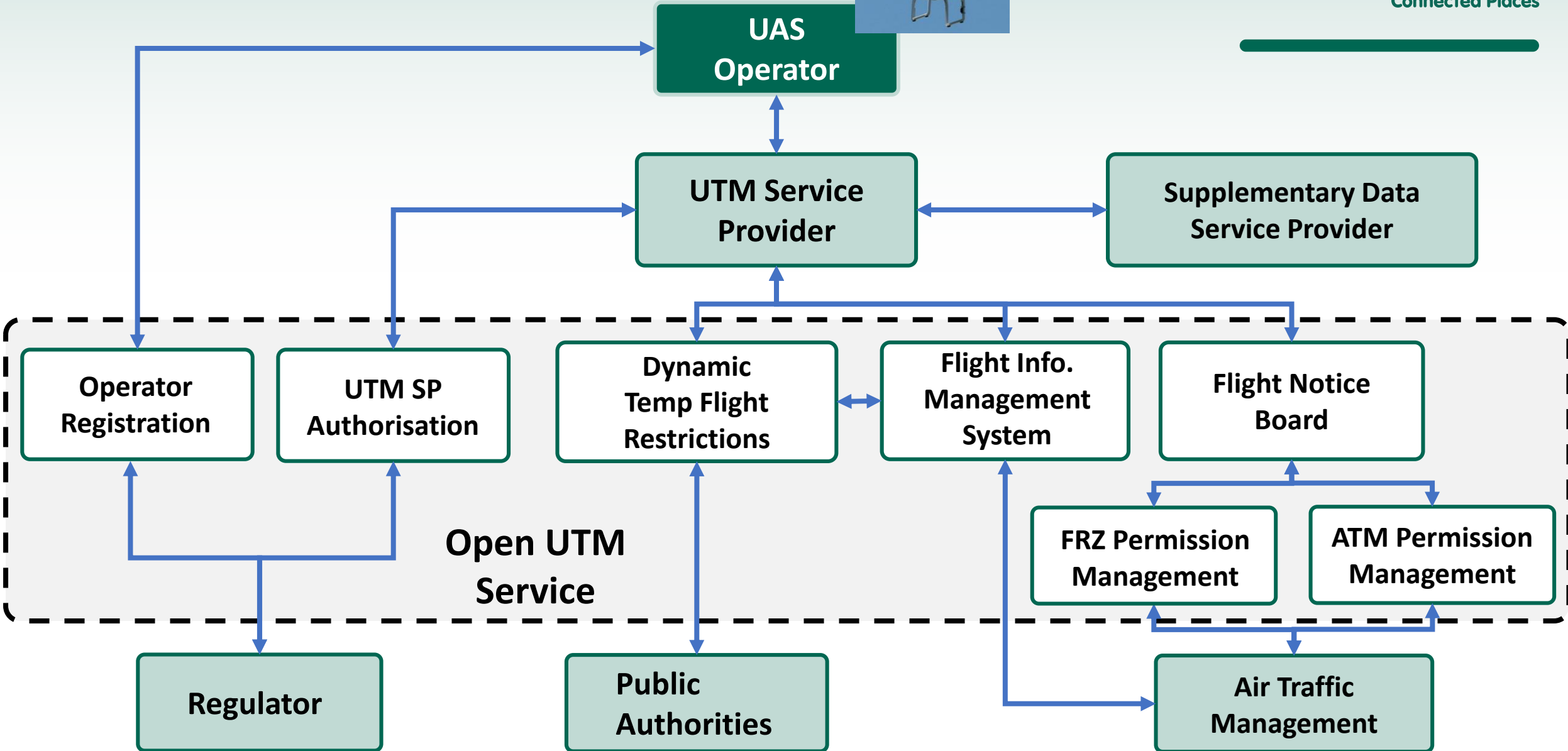
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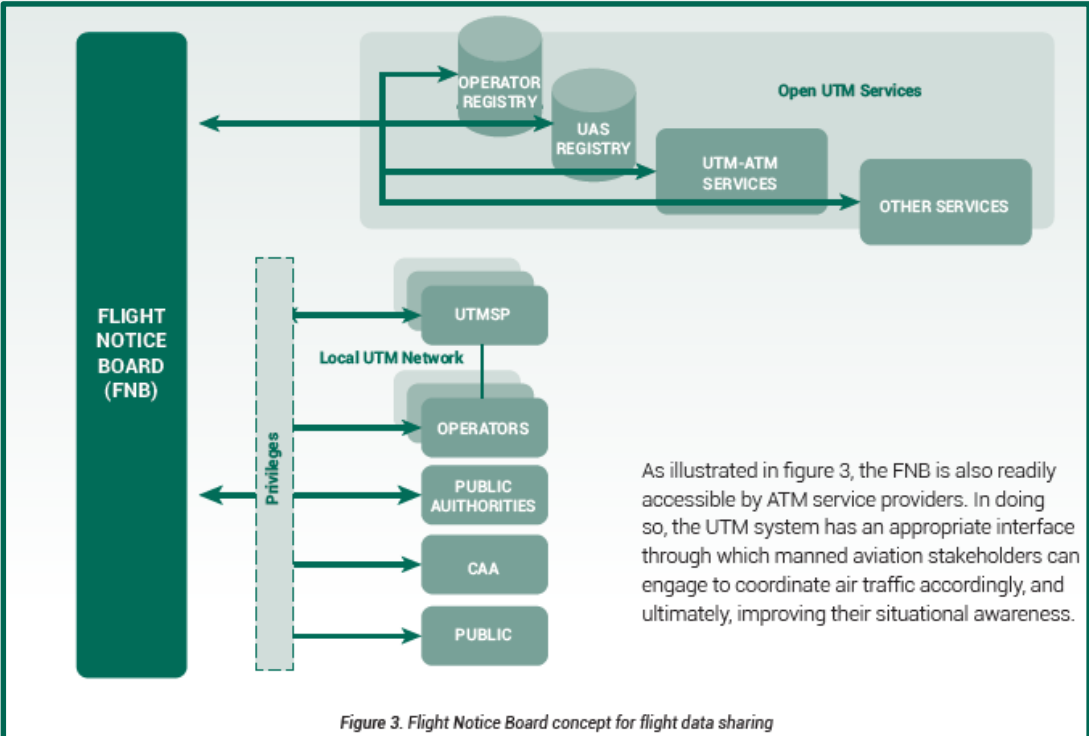
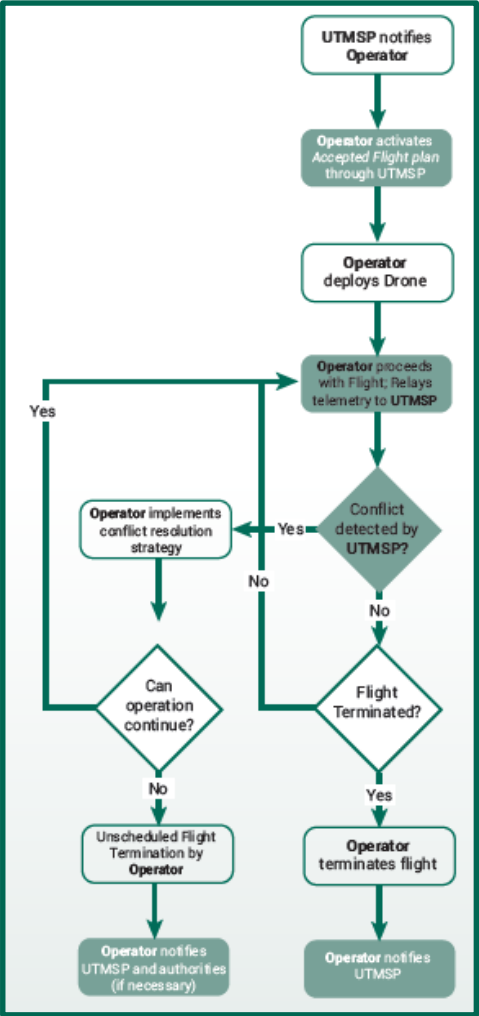




# Unmanned Traffic Management (UTM)



Figure 4. Flight plan submission



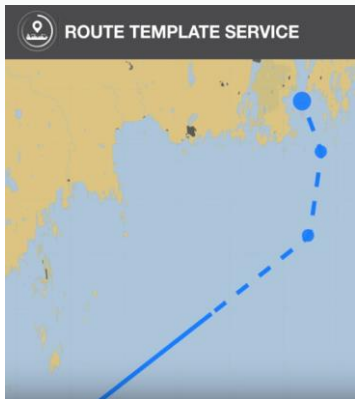
As illustrated in figure 3, the FNB is also readily accessible by ATM service providers. In doing so, the UTM system has an appropriate interface through which manned aviation stakeholders can engage to coordinate air traffic accordingly, and ultimately, improving their situational awareness.

Figure 3. Flight Notice Board concept for flight data sharing

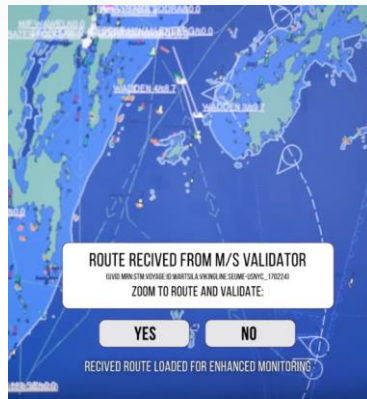
FUTURE AREAS OF RESEARCH	DESCRIPTION
Comparison of Flight Plan communication employed by NASA and U-Space initiatives with FNB Concept	A study should compare the pros and cons of the FNB concept with that of the NASA FIMS concept, and the UTMSP Network flight plan communication strategy. Currently, it is not entirely clear how the NASA methodology functions (based on UTMSP/USS coverage) and warrants a further investigation.
Flight Intersection	The flight notice board is employed here to enable UTMSPs to determine if the proposed flight intersects or conflicts with other flight plans. There is therefore a need for the subsequent research phase to explore how these intersections can be quickly detected. It will also be appropriate to determine whether the UTMSP or a core service is responsible for this

# Application in Maritime

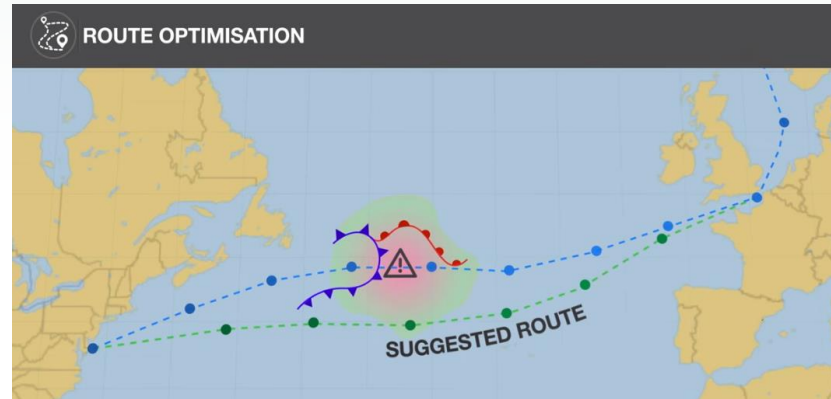
Elements of this are already being addressed – Sea Traffic Management



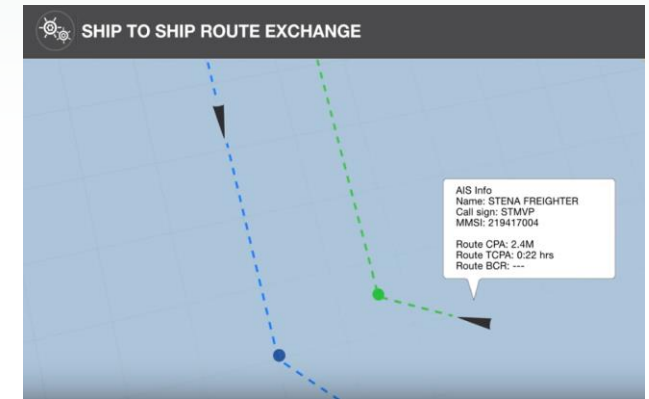
**Route  
Planning**



**Route  
Sharing**



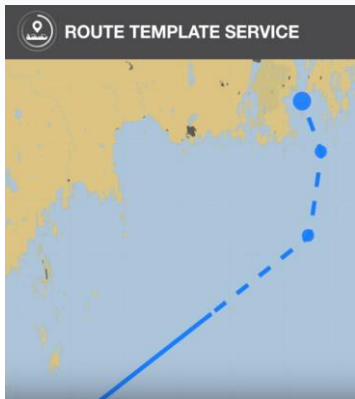
**Route  
Optimisation**



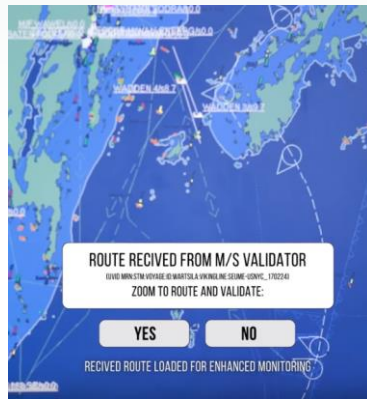
**Route Information  
Exchange**

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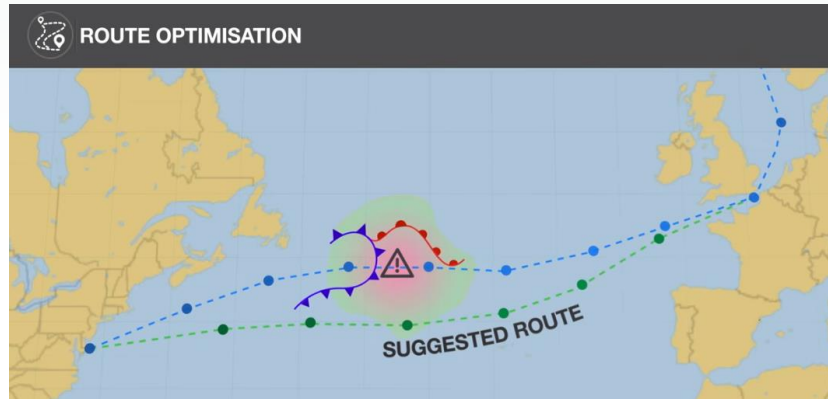
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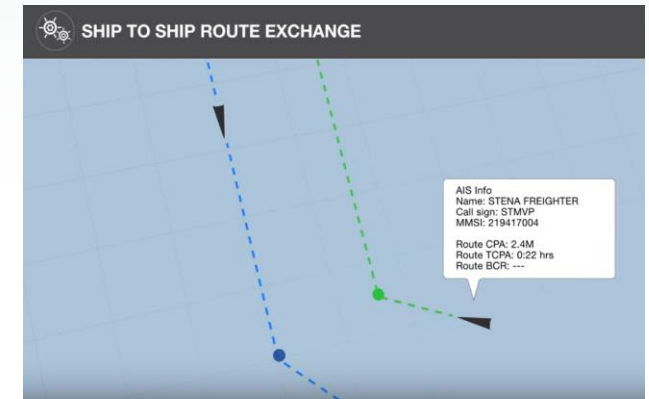
**Route  
Planning**



**Route  
Sharing**



**Route  
Optimisation**



**Route Information  
Exchange**

- Digitalisation of all data to ensure machine readability
- Anonymisation of critical pieces of information
- Robust and reliable communications infrastructure
- Real-time checking of operators and service providers
- Regulated or enforced adoption of the necessary technologies and processes





# Multi-Modal Autonomy: Validation and Management

Connected Places Catapult