

TEA and eSmart Systems help JEA restore power to Hurricane Irma victims



Footage from Connected Drone© power line inspection in Jacksonville, FL



ThunderCloud©—mobile drone operations center in the San Marco neighborhood of Jacksonville, FL

(JACKSONVILLE - September 15, 2017) In the aftermath of Hurricane Irma, [JEA](#), the largest municipal utility in Florida, was able to deploy advanced drone technology to safely and quickly assess damage from the storm. As an owner of The Energy Authority (TEA), a non-profit Data Analytics, Energy Trading, and Risk Management company, JEA has full access to many unique resources. For example, TEA utilizes [eSmart Systems'](#) (eSmart) Connected Grid© software to perform big data analytics functions for the benefit of JEA and other public power utilities. As Irma approached the Florida peninsula, TEA and eSmart identified an opportunity to help JEA in its post-storm recovery.

While JEA currently has four employees licensed as drone operators, eSmart and its partner firm, [SkySkopes](#), were able to provide the equipment, expertise, certifications, and cutting edge software features to quickly add capacity and structure to JEA's efforts that delivered information in real time to work crews more safely and quickly than could be accomplished otherwise.

"We at eSmart Systems are once again proud to be a valued partner of TEA to bring solutions to its utility members. And no solution could be more important than helping the people of Florida more quickly and safely get their lights back on after Hurricane Irma," said CEO of eSmart Systems, Knut Johansen.

Prior to the storm, SkySkopes' operators arrived in Jacksonville from Houston where they had recently been providing similar services to assist Texas utilities in recovering from Hurricane Harvey. The team weathered the storm in a downtown hotel so they were assembled and ready to begin operations as soon as wind speeds were at a safe level.

"Safety is always our highest priority, but SkySkopes is also constantly striving to find use-cases for small unmanned aircraft to benefit partners and clients. Using our advanced aircraft, sensors, mobile command stations, and professional UAS



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pilots we were able to successfully demonstrate the unique value of new aerial data collection methods to TEA, JEA, and eSmart Systems in hurricane damage assessment. Every day we save in the delivery of critical data to a utility such as JEA can save weeks in elements of the recovery process, which ultimately means value to their customers," said Matt Dunlevy, President and CEO of SkySkopes, Inc.

The flight crews went into action on Tuesday, September 12. They were used to assess damage and flooding without putting human crews at risk while relaying essential information that prepared JEA crews to repair damage quickly when they arrived at an impacted site. Additionally, eSmart's mobile operations center, ThunderCloud®, was driven out to affected areas to serve as a base for flying inspection drones along power lines. A major advantage of the state-of-the-art unmanned aerial systems used by SkySkopes is that they employ machine learning and provide live streaming video to utility professionals who could remotely detect damage or monitor repair and recovery efforts.

"JEA strives to provide excellent service to its customers. Collaborating with companies at the forefront of software and drone technology operations is a great example of how JEA *proactively* forms strategic partnerships and leverages them to innovate and constantly improve our critical response processes," said JEA's CEO, Paul McElroy.

Joanie Teofilo, TEA's CEO, explained, "TEA actively seeks out and builds relationships with industry partners that provide public power with the advantage of flexibility, faster response time, adaptability, and cutting-edge technology. When the stakes are high, like unprecedented hurricane conditions, TEA's relationships enable public power utilities as they perform essential restoration services to their customers and communities."

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The Energy Authority, Inc. is the strategic partner of choice for public power. Through the customized application of portfolio management, ISO/RTO trading, bilateral power trading, power supply management, and natural gas trading services, TEA is currently collaborating with over 50 public power utilities nationwide to help them optimize the value of their generation and load portfolio in wholesale energy markets in a manner that is consistent with each utility's unique risk tolerances. Established in 1997, TEA is headquartered in Jacksonville, Florida. TEA's West Region Office, located in Bellevue, Washington, provides a full range of power and portfolio management services for public power utilities located in the Bonneville Power Authority balancing area as well as in the state of California. To learn more, visit www.teainc.org.



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[eSmart Systems](#) is a fast-growing software vendor based in Norway, the United States, the United Kingdom, Germany, and Singapore. The company has developed a powerful and scalable software platform that can process, analyze, and visualize large amounts of data in real time. The platform enables the future of the digital energy industry and smart cities. In 2015, CIO Review ranked eSmart Systems among the 100 most promising Microsoft solution providers worldwide.

[JEA](#) is the largest public power company in Florida. It is currently serving over 400,000 customers. JEA owns and operates an electric system with five generating plants, and all transmission and distribution facilities, including over 745 circuit miles of transmission lines and more than 6,760 miles of distribution lines.

[SkySkopes](#) was the first North Dakota startup legally approved by the Federal Aviation Administration to fly unmanned aircraft for business purposes and has grown to the scale of national and international operations. SkySkopes employs nearly 20 pilots and flies its large fleet of aircraft for industrial inspection, security purposes, precision agriculture, training certification, and other uses.

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