Jack Elston

Black Swift Technologies

Dr. Elston has over 15 years of experience working in the UAS field, and is the CEO and co-founder of Black Swift Technologies. Dr. Elston is also the technical lead on the avionics work at BST including the creation of a low cost, highly capable autopilot system along with unique networking technologies to enable cooperative control of UAS. Dr. Elston received his PhD from the University of Colorado Boulder in 2011 developing a system and algorithms for sUAS sampling of supercell thunderstorms. This work culminated in the design of a system used to conduct the first ever intercept of a tornadic thunderstorm by an unmanned aircraft as part of the NSF and NOAA funded VORTEX2 project. Dr. Elston's other work at the University of Colorado involved the development of four different unmanned aircraft systems at the Research and Engineering Center for Unmanned Vehicles along while conducting over 300 flight experiments. At Black Swift Technologies he's participated in the design and operation of unmanned aircraft systems for volcanic plume observation, wildfire monitoring, satellite validation, soil moisture measurement, and even for the exploration of the upper atmosphere of Venus.