



# Emergency Response

## 86 Lives saved From drone enhanced missions

### AT A GLANCE

#### DETAILS

**Company:** Maritime and Coastguard Agency

**Location:** UK

**Industry:** Emergency Services

**Activity type:** Search and Rescue

#### BENEFITS

- 86 lives saved from drone enhanced missions
- More than £50 million savings annually

"To assist with the development of the regulation and airspace, the MCA has, and continues, to work closely with the CAA and has run several demonstrations and trials, utilising large persistent drones and smaller drones, to ascertain the potential value for operations as well as to assist in the development of the regulation. Manned unmanned teaming is critical to SAR operations and the MCA has been working with its current SAR helicopter provider, Bristow Helicopters Limited, to trial the use of a rotary wing drone in conjunction with the SAR helicopters. The MCA took advantage of this capability during summer 2021 to perform proactive beach patrols of North Wales"



\*According to PwC report "Skies without limits v2"

### ISSUE

The public and defence, health, and education sectors face challenges in efficiently conducting emergency services, infrastructure inspections, and search and rescue operations. Traditional methods are sometimes not fast, comprehensive, or safe enough. There is a particular need for enhanced aerial perspectives, especially in hard-to-reach and remote areas.

### SOLUTION

Drones were introduced, offering aerial insights for tasks like search and rescue and flood assessments. With thermal sensors, they detect body heat, especially in low visibility. The Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) also explored BVLOS and VLOS drones, complementing traditional helicopter operations.

### BENEFITS

#### Societal Benefits



MCA have reported more than 86 lives saved with direct impact from drones.

#### Cost Savings



The Maritime and Coastguard Agency, an emergency service specialising in search and rescue, saves more than £50 million annually through operational enhancement using drones.



#### Advanced SAR Operations

An eye in the sky to quickly locate missing persons



#### Risk Reduction

Deploying drones in challenging weather instead of teams on boats or helicopters



Maritime and  
Coastguard Agency

