Dakota UAS Control Station Description

The Dakota UAS as operated by the Space Dynamics Laboratory consists of one ground station utilizing L3 Unmanned Systems’s MissionTek software (internal pilot control) to command the air vehicle, as well as a separate & redundant Remote Control (R/C) capability primarily for launching and recovering the air vehicle (external pilot control). After launching, operations may be conducted either autonomously (e.g. a programmed route), in Remote Directional Response (RDR) mode (i.e. “joystick” mode) from the ground station by the internal pilot, or the external pilot can take control of the aircraft instantly with the flip of a switch at any time the aircraft is within visual range.