

Aviation Services Unlimited, LLC (Uniflight Global)

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If you're like millions of people who happen to live in the northeast portion of the United States, specifically in the central New York area, you may not think much about the convenience of turning your lights on, but, one of the companies you can thank for that is Aviation Services Unlimited, LLC in Rome, NY.

Located just east of Syracuse in [upstate New York](#), ASU operates primarily FAR 135/91 powerline and pipeline patrol missions using three Bell 206B helicopters and one Cessna 172 plane. ASU is also in possession of a FAR 133 Operating Certificate.

“In the late 1980s’ ASU was started by a local pilot because of the growing demand to patrol utility systems,” says Mike Slattery, general manager and chief pilot. “Much of the powerline infrastructure in our area is high voltage and remote, so we conduct patrols for circuit trips, emergency post-storm, and IR (infrared) vegetation management surveys. Our primary customers are the New York Power Authority, National Grid, New York State Electric and Gas, and Iroquois Pipeline. We also perform mine surveys for the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection.”

“Our nation’s power grid is always expanding,” continues Slattery. “Yet, the existing infrastructure is still in place and in demand. In some areas, the system is over 60 years old, so it requires constant inspections to comply with federal and North American electrical regulatory requirements.”

Throughout the year, ASU flight crews perform visual inspections, infrared and LIDAR surveys. Additionally, under Part 91 they offer photo flights, aerial recon and high-definition (HD) cameras support. Occasionally they conduct Part 135 Charters and special event air tours.

“We fly seven days a week, including on-call requirements, and fly an average of 1,700 hours per year,” adds Slattery. “Our staff consists of seven full-time and four part-time employees. Our pilot staff averages over 23 years of experience with a combined flight of 36,000 flight hours. More importantly, ASU’s pilots have been accident-free since the year 2000.” ASU’s two primary mechanics have combined experience of more than 60 years – a winning combination which has delivered an exceptional safety and reliability record for ASU.

In addition to a highly-experienced staff, the development and implementation of a Safety Management System (SMS) provides the baseline for safety risk management and assessment. ASU, along with its “sister” companies at Uniflight Global, abides by “safety-through-culture” and provides opportunities for training and education to sustain

this culture. Constant communication often referred to as “over communication” at all levels ranks extremely high on the priority list.

ASU is excited about the recent rebranding efforts and is currently waiting for approval by the FAA to continue “doing business as” Uniflight Global. The Uniflight Global team proudly offers Finance, Fix and Fly skillsets. In addition to the flight services offered in Rome, NY, they operate FAR Part 145 Repair Stations in Belle Vernon, PA and in Grand Prairie, TX.

Aviation Services Unlimited, LLC selected HAI as their choice of professional organizations that could deliver professional contacts throughout the helicopter industry niches. “We usually send people to HAI HELI-EXPO every year,” finishes Slattery. “They attend training, enjoy networking with many people, view product demonstrations, and just enjoy the camaraderie with other industry professionals.” ASU has been a proud member of the Helicopter Association International (HAI) for over fourteen years. In 2017 ASU became joined the Utilities Powerline and Patrol Committee. (UPAC)