

ARCAA Frequently Asked Questions

Is ARCAA closing?

ARCAA as a QUT formally designated tier-two research centre ceased operation in January 2017. The specialist airborne operator and sensor expertise will transition to become part of the Research Engineering Facility (REF) within QUT's [Institute for Future Environments](#) (IFE).

What is REF?

IFE's REF will enable researchers and industry to innovate by developing prototype robotics and autonomous systems for land, water and air operations.

Will QUT continue what ARCAA has been doing?

The ARCAA researchers have been part of the Robotics and Autonomous Systems discipline since its inception – this will continue with staff based within QUT's IFE and the Faculty of Science and Engineering. There will be greater access to a diversity of resources, and with the creation of REF, UAV/Aerospace research will be strengthened by the opportunities presented by transdisciplinary approaches and consolidation of expertise and access to REF's certified UAV operators.

What is happening with aerospace research at QUT?

The aerospace automation research strengths will continue and grow by leveraging reusable robotics and autonomous know-how across multiple settings (i.e. land, water and air).

Why is ARCAA being closed when the trend in UAV research is growing?

The fundamental and applied research activities will continue as before, noting the ongoing research focus through the Robotics and Autonomous Systems discipline and IFE's [IntelliSensing Enabling Platform](#). This research will be strengthened through the opportunities presented by transdisciplinary approaches and consolidation of expertise, as well as broader end-user access to REF's certified UAV operators.

Is QUT leaving Da Vinci?

QUT will maintain use of the [Da Vinci Precinct](#) for the purpose it was designed for, and extend that capability to support other research projects conducted by IFE. The facility will provide aircraft maintenance for the larger unmanned aircraft systems. In consultation with stakeholders, the use of the Da Vinci precinct will be reviewed by QUT as part of its regular planning cycles.

What is happening with the UOC and air operations crew/capability?

The air operations team and capability will transition to REF within IFE. QUT will maintain the UOC, which is current to the end of 2018. A determination on the long-term retention of the customised Cessna is still to be made, but it has been factored into budgets for 2017 and committed for research project support in 2017. There has been additional investment in UAV assets in 2016 with further procurement to be finalised in 2017.

What is the future for the UAV Challenge?

QUT is committed to supporting the [UAV Challenge](#), and IFE is confirmed to lead the initiative for a further two years in partnership with CSIRO.

If you have further questions, please contact: arcaa.enquiries@qut.edu.au