Week commencing 2 November 2026

ClearPath Partnership

COVERAGE
19 October – 1 November 2026

AUDIENCE
Security directors · C-UAS programme leads · airport and critical site operators

HANDLING
Internal use — not for onward distribution

IF YOU JUST REMEMBER ONE THING FROM THIS BRIEFING…

Moscow's four main airports were shut down together by drone attacks on at least three separate nights this fortnight.

Russian officials claim 862 drones were destroyed overnight on 29–30 October alone, with over 370 flights cancelled; the airports had already closed together on 23 October, the second such closure within a week. If you protect a comparable hub, ask whether your plan has been tested against repeated, consecutive-night saturation, not a single incursion.

FORTNIGHT IN REVIEW

Incidents and sector activity

PRIORITY

23–30 OCT

Moscow's airports endure repeated multi-night drone shutdowns

All four of Moscow's main airports closed together on 23 October, the second closure within a week, and again on 29–30 October, when officials claimed 862 drones destroyed overnight and over 370 flights were cancelled. Figures are Russian official claims, not independently verified here.

So what: a single night's capacity is not sustained resilience. Test whether your own detection and response would hold across consecutive nights, not one incident.

PRIORITY

29 OCT

PANOPTES Stage 2 submissions close with outcome still pending

Stage 2 bids for the UK's £5 million PANOPTES competition, seeking an autonomous vehicle-mounted laser to defeat mass drone attacks, closed at midday on 29 October via the Defence Sourcing Portal. No supplier outcome has been published.

So what: track which architecture advances — PANOPTES is the first phase of a wider multi-stage force-protection acquisition pathway.

WATCH

ONGOING

Armed Forces Bill granting troops shoot-down powers continues its passage

The Bill, introduced 15 January and through its second reading by 26 January, would let personnel engage aerial, land and waterborne drones near bases without police involvement. Base incident reports more than doubled, from 126 in 2024 to 266 in 2025.

So what: the legal gap between detecting a drone and lawfully acting on it persists until the Bill passes. Confirm who may act at your own boundary meanwhile.

WATCH

ONGOING

Fibre-optic guidance keeps defeating jammers on both sides of the Ukraine front

Wire-guided drones remain immune to RF jamming and GNSS spoofing, since they carry no radio link to disrupt. Reported countermeasures are still largely physical, such as rotating barbed-wire barriers that sever the cable; laser and microwave effectors remain pre-operational.

So what: ask your C-UAS vendor specifically how its roadmap answers a non-RF, non-GNSS threat; most current detection assumes one or the other.

ACTION TABLE

Developments to track this fortnight

DEVELOPMENT	TYPE	WHY IT MATTERS FOR A PROTECTED SITE	ACT BY / WATCH
Moscow airport closures, 23–30 Oct	Incident	Shows a saturation-attack resilience gap at a major aviation hub.	Watch: pattern
PANOPTES Stage 2, closed 29 Oct	Procurement	Signals MOD's preferred detect-to-defeat architecture for force protection.	Watch: outcome
Armed Forces Bill passage	Regulation	Sets the UK's legal basis for troops to engage drones near bases.	Watch: next reading
Fibre-optic drone guidance	Capability	Defeats RF jamming and GNSS spoofing on both sides of a fight.	Watch: vendor roadmaps
MOD CUAS Exploration tender, £125m	Procurement	Stage 2 outcome still pending; shapes the near-term UK supplier field.	Watch: Stage 2

Drone-count and disruption figures are as reported by named sources; Russian official figures are not independently verified here.

REGULATORY AND SECTOR WATCH

What changed, and what is coming

In force now

- UK Flyer ID and Direct Remote ID requirements for drones over 100g remain in force since 1 January 2026.
- Belgium's National Airspace Security Centre has coordinated national drone detection since 1 January 2026.

Approaching

- Armed Forces Bill progress toward further readings, extending shoot-down powers to land and water drones.
- PANOPTES Stage 2 outcome and further MOD procurement decisions are expected in the coming weeks.

Standing watch — SAPIENT NATO ratification. BSI Flex 335's path to a formal NATO STANAG, needing 14-nation approval, remains unresolved. No change this fortnight; treat as backdrop, not the story.

RECOMMENDED

Three things to do before the next edition

- Pressure-test your detection and response plan against multi-night saturation, not a single incursion.
- Track the Armed Forces Bill and note when shoot-down powers would extend beyond your own boundary.
- Ask your C-UAS vendor how its roadmap specifically defeats fibre-optic, non-RF threats.

OUTLOOK — NEXT FORTNIGHT

We assess it is likely that further Moscow-style saturation nights are reported before the next edition, given October's tempo. It is a realistic possibility that the PANOPTES Stage 2 outcome or further Armed Forces Bill progress is announced before 16 November.

NEXT EDITION

Monday 16 November 2026. Send additions, corrections or sector intelligence to your ClearPath engagement lead.

ClearPath Partnership