

NTH partners with STQC–ERTL (North) to enable Electromagnetic Interference (EMI) and Electromagnetic Compatibility (EMC) testing of drones.

New Government-to-Government collaboration strengthens India's drone certification ecosystem;

Boosts safety, affordability, and global acceptance

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Reinforcing the Government of India's commitment to Make in India, **Atmanirbhar Bharat**, and **Vision 2047**, the National Test House (NTH) has taken a significant step towards **positioning India as a globally competitive hub** for safe, reliable, and certified drone technologies.

In this direction, National Test House (NTH) has entered into a government-to-government collaboration with the Standardization Testing & Quality Certification Directorate (STQC) Directorate – Electronics Regional Test Laboratory (North) [ERTL (North)], under the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY). **This will enable Electromagnetic Interference (EMI) and Electromagnetic Compatibility (EMC) testing of drones, thus strengthening India's drone testing and certification framework.**

The collaboration addresses a **critical regulatory requirement under the Drone Rules, 2021** and the Certification Scheme for Unmanned Aircraft Systems (CSUAS), 2022, and will significantly **enhance India's capability to certify** safe, reliable, and globally compliant Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS).



The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed on 2nd February 2026 in the presence of Smt. Nidhi Khare, Secretary, Department of Consumer Affairs; Dr. Alok Kumar Srivastava, Director General, National Test House; Shri Vivek Kashyap, Scientist 'G', STQC Directorate; and Shri Pradeep Gunjyal, Scientist 'F' and Director, ERTL (North).

Under the proposed MoU, **EMI/EMC and immunity testing of drones and their subsystems will be carried out** at ERTL (North) in accordance with applicable IEC 61000 / IS 14700 standards, while NTH will conduct the rest of the tests at its own premises. The test reports generated through this collaboration will be seamlessly integrated into the **Type Certification process**, providing drone manufacturers—particularly **startups and MSMEs**—with a **transparent, seamless, credible, and Government-backed certification pathway**.

This collaborative approach avoids duplication of high-cost infrastructure, enables optimal utilization of existing national facilities, and significantly **strengthens India's regulatory framework** for drone safety and reliability. It also ensures that drones certified through NTH meet **global benchmarks** such as IEC/ISO, MIL-STD, ASTM, and RTCA, enhancing international acceptance of Indian-certified drones.

By making world-class drone testing and certification **accessible and affordable**, at substantially lower cost than private facilities, the initiative will accelerate innovation across sectors such as **agriculture, logistics, healthcare, disaster management, infrastructure monitoring, and smart cities**.

The proposed collaboration between **NTH and STQC-ERTL (North)** marks an important milestone in expanding NTH's drone certification capabilities and building a **robust, indigenous, and future-ready drone certification ecosystem for the nation**.

National Test House (NTH) is approved by DGCA and QCI as a **Certification Body (CB) / Authorized Testing Entity (ATE)** under the Certification Scheme for Unmanned Aircraft Systems (CSUAS) and plays a critical role in ensuring safety, quality, and regulatory compliance for emerging technologies, including drones.

NTH is a premier scientific and testing institution of the Government of India, established in 1912, functioning under the Department of Consumer Affairs, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution. With a nationwide network of NABL-accredited laboratories, NTH provides testing, inspection, quality assurance, and certification services across diverse sectors.

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