

FINAL PROJECT REPORT

STRAWBERRY RIVER AERIAL SURVEY WASATCH AND DUCHESNE COUNTIES, UTAH **August 2019**

Submitted to:

Rick Kelson Utah AGRC 5130 State Office Building Salt Lake City, UT 84114

Submitted by: Aero-Graphics, Inc. 40 W. Oakland Avenue Salt Lake City, UT 84115 www.aero-graphics.com/

Final Project Report Strawberry River Wasatch and Duchesne Counties, UT

Table of Contents

1. Overview

Aero-Graphics, Inc. was contracted by the State of Utah, Department of Technology Services, Division of Integrated Technology, Automated Geographic Reference Center (AGRC) and partners to acquire, process, and deliver aerial LiDAR data and derivative products that adhere to USGS Quality Level 1 LiDAR specifications as well as high-resolution ortho imagery. The project area covers approximately 88.6 square miles located in Wasatch and Duchesne Counties, Utah.

Exhibit 1: Strawberry River project boundary

2. Acquisition – Equipment and Methodology

2.1 LiDAR Acquisition

LiDAR acquisition for the Strawberry River project was performed on August 15 and 16, 2019, with an Optech Galaxy PRIME LiDAR sensor. Aero-Graphics flew at an average altitude of 4,250 ft AGL (above ground level) and made appropriate adjustments to compensate for topographic relief. The PRF (pulse rate frequency) used for collection was 600 kHz, scan frequency 66.7 Hz, and scan angle +/- 23° from the nadir position (full scan angle 46°). LiDAR acquisition was performed with 30% overlap and yielded an average 16.1 points per square meter throughout the project area.

Exhibit 2: Summary of planned LiDAR flight parameters

Product Characterization Report

The Optech Galaxy PRIME is one of the most productive sensors available in the industry. This sensor features SwathTRAK technology, which dynamically adjusts the scan FOV in real time during data acquisition. It also features a 1MHz effective pulse rate, providing on-the-ground point density and efficiency formerly reserved for dual-beam sensors. Up to 8 returns per pulse are possible for increased vertical resolution of complex targets without the need for full waveform recording and processing. Industry-leading data precision and accuracy (<5cm RMSEz) results in the highest-quality datasets possible.

Exhibit 3: The acquisition platform for the Strawberry River project was a turbocharged Cessna 206. Our 206 has been customized for LiDAR and other airborne sensors with an upgraded power system and avionics. The stability of the Cessna 206 is ideal for LiDAR collection

Aero-Graphics utilizes Optech's Airborne Mission Manager(AMM) software to plan flight lines and sensor settings. AMM allows the aerial department to simulate the effects of different sensors, mounts, and settings, ensuring the flight plan will meet the needs of the project while being as efficient as possible. To compliment the flight planning process the Galaxy PRIME LiDAR sensor is equipped with FMS Nav, the latest data collection and navigation software release from Optech. The

use of FMS Nav helps ensure an accurate and consistent acquisition mission with real-time quality assurance while still airborne. The system operator can monitor the point density and swath coverage during the mission to confirm adequate coverage within the area of interest, as shown in **Exhibit 4.**

Exhibit 4: Swath data for the Strawberry River project was recorded and viewed real-time by the sensor operator.

Exhibit 5: Flight line swath coverage symbolized by date

2.2 Imagery Acquisition

Imagery acquisition was performed using the Ultracam Eagle (UCE) Mark 1 and PhaseOne aerial camera systems. A brief report providing relevant background information regarding imagery acquisition is included in [Appendix C.](#page-30-0) Exhibits **6** and **7** summarize the planned flight parameters for the two sets of imagery.

Exhibit 7: Summary of planned imagery acquisition flight parameters - UCE

The UCE Mark 1 collected 4-band imagery at a 16 bit radiometric resolution. The imagery was then output to 3-bands with 8-bit radiometric resolution to create the final images. Aero-Graphic's UCE utilized a 100 mm length focal lens which allowed for flying at higher altitudes without an increase in GSD. The UCE is equipped with precision GPS/IMU to accurately position the raw imagery for orthorectification. In addition, it is equipped with Forward Motion Compensation and mounted in a GSM-4000 gyrostabilized mount that works together with the IMU to automatically correct up to 5° roll, 8.4° pitch, and

6.2° yaw before each exposure is fired. The imagery was reviewed for completeness before

Exhibit 8: The imagery acquisition platform for the Strawberry River project was a turbocharged Cessna 310. Our 310 has been customized for imagery and other airborne sensors with an upgraded power system and avionics. The stability of the 310 is ideal for imagery collection.

3. Ground Survey – Equipment and Methodology

Aero-Graphics surveyed 20 ground control points for use in data calibration as well as 79 QC check points in Vegetated and Non-Vegetated land cover classifications as an independent test of accuracy for this project. A combination of precise GPS surveying methods, including static and RTK observations were used to establish the 3D position of ground calibration points and QC check points. Spatial distribution of the surveyed points was limited due to extreme terrain variation and fire conditions throughout the majority of the project area. Calibration control point and QC check point coordinates can be found in Appendix A. LiDAR positional accuracy results can be found in Section 5.

Exhibit 9: Calibration Control Point (Target)

Exhibit 10: Calibration Control Point (Aerotas target)

4. LiDAR Processing Workflow

- a. **Absolute Sensor Calibration.** Our absolute sensor calibration adjusted for the difference in roll, pitch, heading, and scale between the raw laser point cloud from the sensor and surveyed control points on the ground.
- b. **Kinematic Air Point Processing.** Differentially corrected the 1-second airborne GPS positions using Applanix's industry-leading POSPac MMS GNSS Inertial software (PP-RTX); combined and refined the GPS positions with 1/200-second IMU (roll-pitch-yaw) data through development of a smoothed best estimate of trajectory (SBET).
- c. **Raw LiDAR Point Processing (Calibration).** Combined SBET with raw LiDAR range data; solved real-world position for each laser point; produced point cloud data by flight strip in ASPRS v1.4 .LAS format; output in NAD83 (2011) UTM Zone 12, meters.
- d. **Relative Calibration.** Performed relative calibration by correcting for roll, pitch, heading, and scale discrepancies between adjacent flightlines; tested resulting relative accuracy. Results presented in Section 5.
- e. **Vertical Accuracy Assessment.** Performed comparative tests that showed Z-differences between surveyed points and the laser point surface. Results presented in Section 5.
- f. **Tiling & Long/Short Filtering.** Cut data into project-specified tiles and filtered out grossly long and short returns.
- g. **Classified LAS Processing.** The point classification is performed as described below. The bare earth surface is then manually reviewed to ensure correct classification on the Class 2 (Ground) points. After the bare-earth surface is finalized, it is then used to generate all hydro-breaklines through heads-up digitization.

All ground (ASPRS Class 2) LiDAR data inside of the Lake Pond and Double Line Drain hydroflattened breaklines were then classified to Water (ASPRS Class 9) using TerraScan macro functionality. A buffer of 1 meter was also used around each hydro-flattened feature to classify these ground (ASPRS Class 2) points to Ignored ground (ASPRS Class 10). All Lake Pond Island and Double Line Drain Island features were checked to ensure that the ground (ASPRS Class 2) points were reclassified to the correct classification after the automated classification was completed. All bridge decks were classified to Class 17. All overlap data was processed through automated functionality provided by TerraScan to classify the overlapping flight line data to approved classes by USGS. The overlap data was classified using standard LAS overlap bit. These classes were created through automated processes only and were not verified for classification accuracy.

All data was manually reviewed and any remaining artifacts removed using functionality provided by TerraScan and TerraModeler. LP360 was used as a final check of the bare earth

dataset. LP360 was then used to create the deliverable industry-standard LAS files for both the All Point Cloud Data and the Bare Earth. Aero-Graphics, Inc. proprietary software was used to perform final statistical analysis of the classes in the LAS files, on a per tile level to verify final classification metrics and full LAS header information.

Exhibit 11: USGS Version 1.3 minimum point cloud classification scheme used for this project

	CLASS # CLASS NAME	DESCRIPTION
	Processed, but unclassified	Points that do not fit any other classes
	Bare earth	Bare earth surface
	Low noise	Low points identified below surface
9	Water	Points inside of lakes/ponds
10	Ignored ground (near a breakline)	Points near breakline features; ignored in DEM creation process
17	Bridge decks	Points on bridge decks
18	High noise	High points identified above surface

h. **Hydro-Flattened Breakline Creation.** Class 2 (ground) LiDAR points were used to create a bare earth surface model. The surface model was then used to heads-up digitize 2D breaklines of inland streams and rivers with a 100-foot nominal width and inland ponds and lakes of 2 acres or greater surface area. Elevation values were assigned to all Inland Ponds and Lakes, Inland Pond and Lake Islands, Inland Stream and River Islands, using LP360 functionality. Elevation values were assigned to all inland streams and rivers using Aero-Graphics, Inc. proprietary software. All Ground (ASPRS Class 2) LiDAR data inside of the collected inland breaklines were then classified to Water (ASPRS Class 9) using TerraScan macro functionality. A buffer of 1 meter was also used around each hydro-flattened feature. These points were moved from ground (ASPRS Class 2) to Ignored Ground (ASPRS Class 10).

The breakline files were then translated to ESRI shapefile format using ESRI conversion tools. Breaklines are reviewed against LiDAR intensity imagery to verify completeness of capture. All breaklines are then compared to TINs (triangular irregular networks) created from ground only points prior to water classification. The horizontal placement of breaklines is compared to terrain features and the breakline elevations are compared to LiDAR elevations to ensure all breaklines match the LiDAR within acceptable tolerances. Some deviation is expected between breakline and LiDAR elevations due to monotonicity, connectivity, and flattening rules that are enforced on the breaklines. Once completeness, horizontal placement, and vertical variance is reviewed, all breaklines are reviewed for topological consistency and data integrity using a combination of ESRI ArcMap tools and proprietary tools.

- i. **Hydro-Flattened Raster DEM Creation.** Class 2 (Ground) LiDAR points in conjunction with the hydro breaklines were used to create a 0.5 meter hydro-flattened raster DEM. Using LP360 along with automated scripting routines within ArcMap, an ERDAS Imagine .IMG file was created for each tile. Each surface is reviewed using ESRI ArcMap and ArcScene to check for any surface anomalies or incorrect elevations found within the surface.
- j. **First Return Raster DSM Creation.** First return LiDAR points were used to create a 0.5 meter first-return raster DEM. Using LP360 along with automated scripting routines within ArcMap, a TIF file was created for each tile. Each surface is reviewed using ESRI ArcMap and ArcScene to check for any surface anomalies or incorrect elevations found within the surface.
- k. **Issues.** There were no issues to report for this project.

5. Accuracy Testing and Results

5.1 Relative Calibration Accuracy Results

Between-swath relative accuracy is defined as the elevation difference in overlapping areas between a given set of two adjacent flightlines. The statistics are based on the comparison of the flightlines and points listed below.

Strawberry River project area: (27 flightlines, > 2.7 billion points)

■ Between-swath relative accuracy **average** of 0.0495 meters

Within-swath relative accuracy is the amount of vertical separation, or "noise," among a set of points on open, paved ground that should have the same elevation. The within-swath relative accuracy average is less than **0.008 meters.**

5.2 Calibration Control Point Testing

Calibration Control Point reports were generated as a quality assurance check. Note that the results are not an independent assessment of the accuracy of the project deliverables, but rather an additional indication of the overall accuracy of the dataset. The location of each control point is displayed below. Detailed results are included in **Appendix B**.

5.3 Point Cloud Testing

The project specifications require that only Non-Vegetated Vertical Accuracy (NVA) be computed for raw LiDAR point cloud swath files. NVA is defined as the elevation difference between the LiDAR surface and ground surveyed static points collected in open terrain (bare soil, sand, rocks, and short grass) as well as urban terrain (asphalt and concrete surfaces). The NVA for this project was tested with 33 check points. These check points were not used in the calibration or post processing of the LiDAR point cloud data. Elevations from the unclassified LiDAR surface were measured for the xy location of each check point. Elevations interpolated from the LiDAR surface were then compared to the elevation values of the surveyed control points.

Raw Non-vegetated Vertical Accuracy (Raw NVA): The tested Raw NVA for this dataset was found to be 0.082 meters in terms of the RMSEz. The resulting NVA stated as the 95% confidence level (RMSEz x 1.96) is 0.161 meters. Therefore this dataset meets the required NVA of 0.196 meters at the 95% confidence level as defined by the National Standards for Spatial Data Accuracy (NSSDA). Individual point results are included in Appendix B.

5.4 Digital Elevation Model (DEM) Testing

The project specifications require the accuracy of the derived DEM be calculated and reported in two ways: (1) Non-Vegetated Vertical Accuracy (NVA) calculated at a 95% confidence level in "bare earth" and "urban" land cover classes and (2) Vegetated Vertical Accuracy (VVA) in all vegetated land cover classes combined calculated based on the 95th percentile error. The NVA for this project was tested with 20 check points. The VVA was tested with 46 check points.

The tested Non-Vegetated Vertical Accuracy (NVA) for this dataset captured from the DEM using bi-linear interpolation to derive the DEM elevations was found to be 0.064 meters in terms of the RMSEz. The resulting accuracy stated as the 95% confidence level (RMSEz x 1.96) is 0.125 meters. Therefore this dataset meets the required NVA of 0.196 meters at the 95% confidence level. Individual point results are included in Appendix B.

The tested Vegetated Vertical Accuracy (VVA) for this dataset captured from the DEM using bilinear interpolation for all classes was found to be 0.167 meters. Therefore this dataset meets the required VVA of 0.294 meters based on the 95th percentile error. Individual point results are included in Appendix B.

Exhibit 13: NVA Check Point locations for the Strawberry River project

Exhibit 14: VVA Check Point locations for the Strawberry River project

5.5 Data Density

The requirement for this project was to achieve a LiDAR point density of **8** points per square meter. The acquisition mission achieved an actual average of **16.1** points per square meter. The following two exhibits show the density of **all collected points.**

Exhibit 15: Strawberry River – All returns Laser Point Density by Frequency, points/m² . Demonstrates the percentage of project tiles with points in a given density range

Exhibit 16: Laser Point Density of All Returns by Tile, points/m²

The following two exhibits show the density of **ground classified points**. Factors such as vegetation, water, and buildings will reduce the density of points classified to the ground. For the Strawberry River project, an average of **9.8** ground classified points per square meter was achieved.

Exhibit 17: Strawberry River - Ground Classified Laser Point Density by Frequency, points/m² . Demonstrates the percentage of project tiles with points in a given density range

Exhibit 18: Ground Classified Laser Point Density by Tile, points/m²

5.6 Data Density Summary

5.7 Orthophoto Accuracy

Horizontal accuracy of the orthophoto is dependent upon the quality of the aerotriangulation solution and the resulting ortho surface creation. Each bundle-adjusted AT solution is checked visually with the stereoimagery to ensure the surveyed control point falls directly on the center of the target and within a specified vertical tolerance (one-quarter the equivalent contour interval). If these tolerances are met, horizontal accuracy is always acceptable. In addition, Aero-Graphics utilized the project's survey grade control throughout the block to verify the integrity of the ortho's positional accuracy. Control points yielded a 0.78' RMSE XY.

6. Projection, Datums, and Mapping Units

7. Deliverables

8. Highlighted Images

Exhibit 19: PhaseOne: Tile "12TWK1240"

Exhibit 20: UCE: Tile "12TWK1240"

Appendix A

Control Point Coordinates

QC Check Point Coordinates - NVA

QC Check Point Coordinates - VVA

Appendix B

Calibration Control Vertical Accuracy Report

Raw NVA Check Point Report

DEM - NVA Check Point Report

DEM - VVA Check Point Report

Appendix C – Imagery Acquisition Background

Strawberry River AGRC - September 20, 2019

Imagery Acquisition Background

On August 15, 2019 a Temporary Flight Restriction(TFR) was issued in the vicinity of the project forcing the flight crew to avoid 2 flightlines on the east side of the project. The window for acquisition also coincided with the temporary lowering of the Strawberry River, making acquisition of these final lines vital for consistent river levels across the dataset.

In order to mitigate any consequences smoke, river level, or adjusted AGL could have on the quality of the imagery, AGI decided to complete a second acquisition mission to ensure a consistent high quality imagery dataset. This second acquisition was completed in a single lift on August 18, 2019.

Flight Settings

http://www.aero-graphics.com/

40 West Oakland Avenue Salt Lake City, UT 84115

801.487.3273