<<UNDER EMBARGO UNTIL 12/18 @ 9am PT/12pm ET>>

**Sony Contacts:**

Jennifer Sugarman, Marketing & Partnerships

jennifer.sugarman@sony.com

**Sony Electronics Announces the Release of a New Firmware Update for its Professional Drone the Airpeak S1**

*Featuring Advanced Mapping, Improved Safety Protocols, and Broader Compatibility*

**SAN DIEGO, CA – Dec 18, 2023 –** Today,Sony Electronics Inc. announces a free firmware update for the Airpeak S1, tailored to meet the evolving needs of industrial enterprise and high-end users. This update not only introduces new features but also represents Sony’s dedication to continuous improvement and customer-centric innovation. Acknowledging the valuable feedback from the dedicated community of drone users and drone service providers, Sony’s aim is to enhance the functionality of the Airpeak S1, ensuring that the Airpeak S1 remains a leading and reliable choice in the competitive drone marketi.

**New Features in Update: FOTA2.1.0, APF2.2.0, and APB2.2.0**

**Enhanced Mapping Mission (New)**

This new capability streamlines the surveying workflow by enabling automatic flight for mapping missions through the mobile app, the Airpeak Flight appii. This feature, utilizing the RTK kit RTK-1 and Gimbal GBL-PX1, facilitates the efficient creation of 2D ortho maps, 3D models, and point clouds, with mission planning possible both manually and via KML format imports. Lastly, the update simplifies the addition of high-precision positioning data to captured images. This data, recorded on an SD card in the RTK interface unit, can be easily linked with corresponding images from the same mission using the Airpeak Flight app, with images organized into separate folders per flight for streamlined file management and project execution.

**Automatic Return to Home (Enhanced)**

The new Automatic Return to Home (RTH) feature on the Airpeak drone enhances safety and efficiency in various flight scenarios. This feature is designed to automatically activate and guide the aircraft back to its home point in situations such as low battery or signal loss. It intelligently calculates and navigates bypass routes to avoid restricted airspace or obstacles along the return path. Users have the option to choose between Basic and Advanced modes for the RTH feature. While the Basic mode enables the aircraft to avoid obstacles in an upward direction, the Advanced mode offers additional capability to evade obstacles horizontally, ensuring a more efficient and safer return flight. This feature is particularly useful for ensuring the safe retrieval of the aircraft after completing aerial imaging tasks.

**Precision in Flight Path Recreation**

The new "Direct Repeat Flight" feature for the Airpeak drone offers a significant advancement in flight path replication. This mode enables users to accurately recreate a previously flown path, including specific gimbal and camera movements, which is particularly useful for continuous capturing of a fixed point or repeated flights over the same route. Moreover, this mode extends its capabilities to the recreation of precise shooting timings for still images and movies, enhancing the consistency and quality of aerial photography.

**Expanded Camera Compatibility**

Newly Supported Models: Including [Camera Model, e.g., a7RM3A], this update broadens the spectrum of compatible high-end cameras, providing users with more choices for their imaging needs.

**Extended iPad/iPhone Compatibility**

Supported Models: The firmware now supports additional iPad and iPhone models, and this expansion ensures a more inclusive user experience, catering to a wider array of Apple device users.

* iPhone SE (3rd generation)
* iPhone 14 Pro Max, iPhone 14 Pro, iPhone 14 Plus, iPhone 14
* iPad Air (5th generation), iPad Pro 11-inch (6th generation), iPad (10th generation)

**Strategic Industry Partnerships**

Sony has formed key partnerships with leading players in the drone industry, together enjoying great success. These partnerships aim to enhance the capabilities of the Airpeak S1 and those of our partners, further solidifying its status as a top choice for professionals in various industries. These partners include AirData UAV, HEXAGON Smart Net, and Inertial Labs.

To learn more about this recent free update, available as of December 18, please visit:
 <https://www.sony.com/electronics/support/other-products-drones/ars-s1#downloads>

For more information about Airpeak, please visit: <https://electronics.sony.com/airpeak>

###

**About Sony Electronics Inc.**

Sony Electronics is a subsidiary of Sony Corporation of America and an affiliate of Sony Group Corporation, one of the most comprehensive entertainment companies in the world, with a portfolio that encompasses electronics, music, motion pictures, mobile, gaming, robotics and financial services. Headquartered in San Diego, California, Sony Electronics is a leader in electronics for the consumer and professional markets. Operations include research and development, engineering, sales, marketing, distribution and customer service. Sony Electronics creates products that innovate and inspire generations, such as the award-winning Alpha Interchangeable Lens Cameras and revolutionary high-resolution audio products. Sony is also a leading manufacturer of end-to-end solutions from 4K professional broadcast and A/V equipment to industry leading 4K and 8K Ultra HD TVs. Visit <http://www.sony.com/news> for more information.

**Notes:**

i Operating a drone in the United States is subject to federal law and regulations. State and local ordinances may also apply to certain operations. When operating an aircraft, it is the remote pilot/operator's responsibility to always comply with applicable laws, regulations, and ordinances.

ii All apps require network services, content, and operating system and software subject to terms and conditions and may be changed, interrupted, or discontinued at any time and may require fees, registration, and credit card information.