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New Video Highlights Practical Use of Drone Technology for Building Inspections

NORTHBROOK, IL (September 15, 2015) - Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates (WJE) has produced a new video documenting how drone technology can be used for building facade inspections. The video can be viewed at <u>https://youtu.be/PxWKA6w_k-s</u>.

Currently, nine major U.S. cities have adopted facade ordinances (www.facadeordinance.com) that require inspection of thousands of buildings every few years.

"We believe that drone usage will enable building owners to assess problems quicker and with less risk to the general public and workers," explained WJE Principal Michael Petermann. "This will become an essential tool in engineers' and architects' tool box."

WJE partnered with First Flight Photography (FFP), an FAA-Section 330 vendor to produce the video that highlights how drones could be used to assess building exteriors safely and expediently. The companies worked together on the two structures highlighted in the video and have proposed on several other upcoming projects. Having multi-angled video or still images enables engineers to see potential distressed conditions that could otherwise be missed from ground analysis.

"We hope that local governments permit the use of drones for building assessment," said Petermann. "This technology can be utilized today to help avoid potentially dangerous situations in aging buildings across the nation."

WJE anticipates an increase in demand to perform visual inspections utilizing high quality imagery from drones and is in the process of partnering with select vendors.



About WJE

Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc. (WJE), is an interdisciplinary firm of structural engineers, architects, and materials scientists that specializes in the investigation, analysis, testing, and design of repairs for historic and contemporary structures. Since the firm's founding more than fifty years ago, WJE has focused on delivering practical, innovative, and technically sound solutions across all areas of new and existing construction. Our specialists bring the collective experience gained from conducting more than seventy-five thousand investigations worldwide to every construction challenge. WJE combines state-of-the-art laboratory and testing facilities, nationwide offices, and knowledge sharing systems to provide solutions for the built world. For more information, please visit wje.com.

About First Flight Photography

First Flight Photography, LCC is an FAA-Section 333 approved drone operator utilizing professionally licensed air transport pilots who have logged more than 18,000 flight hours and twenty years of civilian and military experience. FFP was formed by commercial pilots John Kahrs and Philip Leone to provide aerial photography and videography services. The company is located in Newburgh, New York. For more information, please visit <u>firstflightphotography.com</u>.

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