



**“There’s no question that it’s an evolving industry and there’s a lot of evolving rules and regulations.”**

**BRAD LITTLE**

Idaho lieutenant governor

## **DRONES**

from A1

Eric Folkestad, president of the Cascade Chapter of the Association for Unmanned Vehicle Systems International, said the U.S. has a 10-year head start on development of the technology compared with the rest of the world.

“Every bad country wants to get their hands on this technology, because it works,” he said. “We’re even 10 years ahead of NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization), that’s where we’re selling these planes right now.”

It takes seven years and millions of dollars to develop one of these aircraft, he said.

The U.S. can take advantage of its lead, economically, by applying it to commercial uses.

“China is desperately trying to catch up,” Folkestad said.

In the next five years, the market will be \$40 billion worldwide and \$28 billion in the U.S.

Charlton Evans, program manager for

commercial and civil unmanned aircraft systems for Insitu Inc., said expanded use of the aircraft is on the horizon.

The Federal Aviation Administration is considering ways to integrate the aircraft into the national airspace for commercial work.

“I expect what will happen first is access to airspace will be granted in a formalized way for emergency responders,” Evans said.

Idaho Lt. Gov. Brad Little, one of the conference’s opening speakers, said the Idaho Legislature had a robust debate

about privacy and unmanned vehicles during the 2013 legislative session.

“There’s no question that it’s an evolving industry and there’s a lot of evolving rules and regulations,” Little said. “What took place in Idaho is, we passed laws that regulated and tried to put the sideboards on there

and didn’t let somebody else define the environment going forward.”

He said it’s important for the industry to address the subject.

Edgar said misuse of data that is collected should be more of a concern than how data is collected.

“Whether it’s manned or unmanned, it doesn’t matter,” he said.

He pointed out that people are being video recorded at intersections, parking lots, sidewalks and buildings. Personal information is being gathered constantly.

He said the use or management of collected data is where legislators need to focus their energy.

The conference and expo was organized by American Manufacturers Network, based in Lewiston.

Bob Didocha, general manager of the network, said members of the manufacturing and airline industries, education community, government agencies, and curious members of the public attended the event. It was the first conference and roughly 100 people registered.



Little