

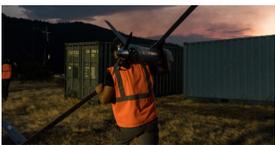
Success Story: Fighting Wildfires in the United States

Insitu's Rapid Response Team Aids
Wildfire Fighting Efforts



CHALLENGE

In early September of 2017, wildfires burned nearly 50,000 acres in the Columbia River Gorge region — home to Insitu's headquarters — affecting our employees, neighbors, facilities and communities. Just weeks later, the Mendocino Lake Complex and Central LNU Complex fires broke out in northern California, where wildfires have destroyed more than 160,000 acres in 2017 alone. In both events difficult terrain, smoke and extremely dry and windy conditions taxed the resources of those struggling to contain the fires, prompting emergency responders to call upon government agencies and industry for additional assets to help with the fight.



SOLUTION

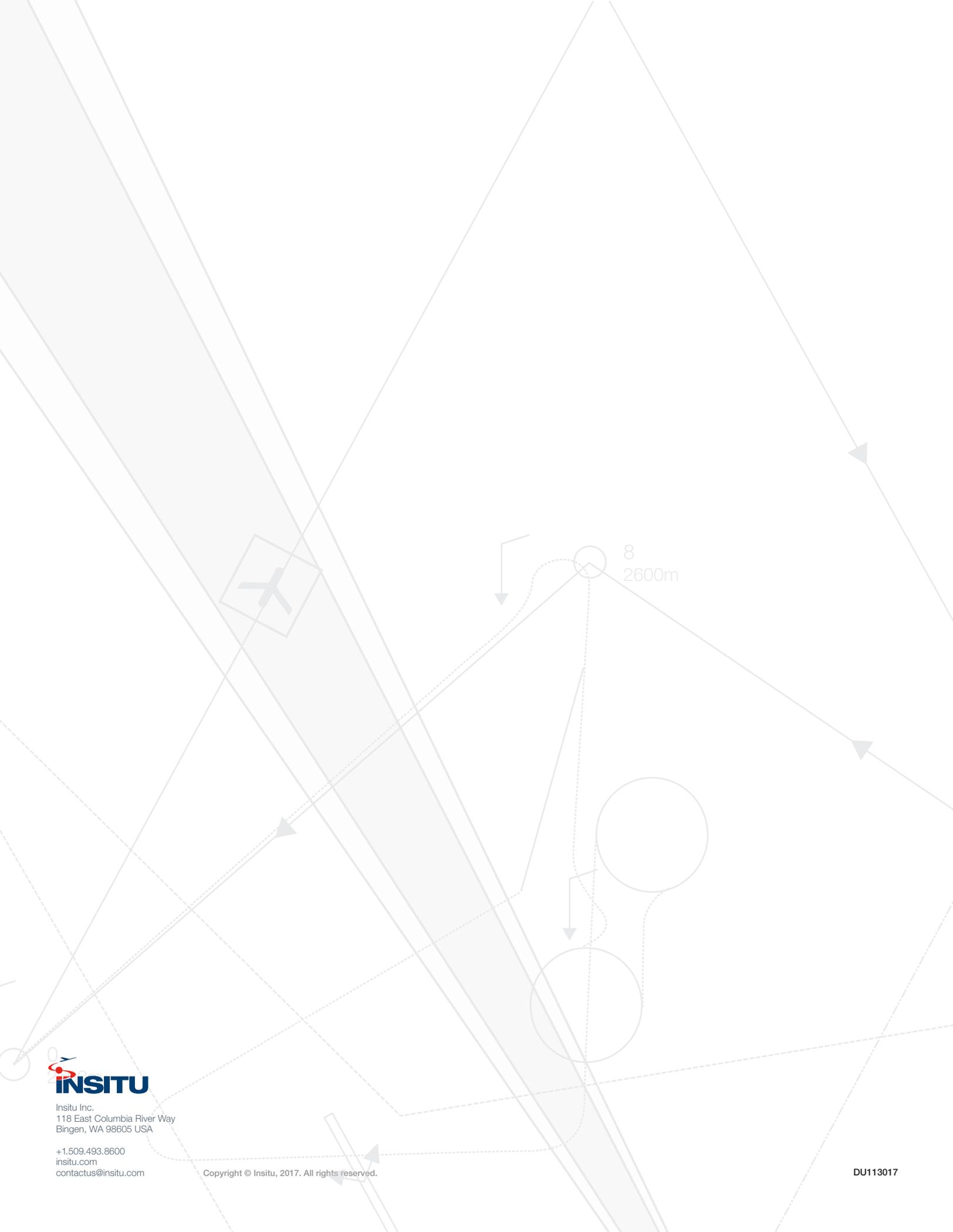
Insitu's Rapid Response Team can quickly dispatch a cross-functional group of operators, analysts and other professionals with INEXA™ Solutions, Insitu's unmanned aerial systems and information processing capabilities. ScanEagle® supplements manned firefighting fleets by operating during dense smoke and at night, when manned aircraft are grounded due to hazardous flying conditions for pilots. The aircraft's infrared sensors penetrate smoke and darkness to gather and disseminate geo-referenced still images of points of interest. These images enable Geographic Information System (GIS) specialists to analyze data and provide near-real-time mapping, video and still images of a fire, resulting in heightened emergency response efforts.



RESULT

The Insitu team responded to the fires in Oregon and California, with ScanEagle assisting firefighters as the sole persistent over watch asset at night. All efforts for air space access were coordinated with the FAA and other government agencies. Our data collection, analysis and integration capabilities produced near-real-time georeferenced maps that helped equip emergency responders identify spot fires, locate fire lines and hotspots and provide video and still images of critical infrastructure, historical structures and more.

In both situations, the information Insitu provided to emergency responders resulted in increased situational awareness and safety as well as supported planning and resource allocation. In one event, incident commanders used ScanEagle's actionable information to change the fire attack plan in real time when they discovered that the original strategy would have placed firefighters in harm's way. During another flight, ScanEagle's full-motion video was able to detect and track a three-mile expansion of the fire over the course of six hours, resulting in better information and emergency response efforts.



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