



How a Major General Contractor Built and Scaled Drone Operations

COMPANY SNAPSHOT : HENSEL PHELPS

- Drone program since 2014
- Skyward customer since 2016
- 3,000+ employees
- Top 30 contracting company (ENR Magazine)
- **Project types:** Aviation, commercial, education, government & justice, healthcare, infrastructure, science & technology, and more
- **Headquarters:** Greeley, CO

As early adopters of drone technology, Hensel Phelps Construction Company, one of the largest general contractors and construction companies in the United States, started their drone operations small and scaled over time. Today, Hensel Phelps has among the most comprehensive and sophisticated drone operations in the industry.

“Skyward was the biggest factor in getting our drone program approved. What our legal team loved was the thoroughness of the software and the ability to document pilots. All of our information is on the web and contained in one database, so all of our district teams, our legal team, and the safety team can access this information whenever they need to.”

— *Richard Lopez, Virtual Design & Construction Manager, Hensel Phelps*

Richard Lopez, virtual design and construction manager at Hensel Phelps, set out to safely establish drone operations. In addition to preparing risk mitigation and hardware research, he knew he needed a system for managing inventory and logging maintenance, just as Hensel Phelps does with cranes and backhoes. He also needed a way to ensure compliance with the FAA.

Richard learned about Skyward at Drone World Expo in San Jose and saw that it was a perfect solution for mitigating risk and showing to his legal team.



Skyward gives Hensel Phelps the ability to keep one central drone flight logbook for their entire organization, allowing them to track pilot hours, flight records, and maintenance in the same place where they maintain regulatory compliance.

“At Hensel Phelps, we really pride ourselves on safety,” he added.

“Skyward gives us a way to document

everything, know that our machines are properly maintained, and have that extra layer of safety.”

Since launching drone operations, Hensel Phelps has scaled up its drone program to not only save money but also to make money and create more efficient processes.

Hensel Phelps has used drones for:

- Footage for marketing videos, saving up to \$20,000 per flight versus a helicopter
- Building inspections
- Point clouds to incorporate into Building Information Modeling (BIM) software
- Photogrammetry, providing valuable data to superintendents and job site managers
- Cardinal direction views for clients and building owners
- LiDAR, for surveying
- FLIR, for inspecting HVAC efficiency

Get in touch at contact@skyward.io or visit us at skyward.io