



Advances of Drones in Logistics

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Message from the Guest Editors

Dear Colleagues,

Time efficiency is a key factor in logistics, and the use of uncrewed aerial vehicles (drones) are being increasingly seen as potential tools to improve operations by reducing the time required to complete certain tasks. Drones are being used to improve the management of inventory in warehouses, whilst others are being trialled for fast point-to-point goods deliveries in areas where the traditional land journey is more challenging. With increasing levels of automation going forward, delivery drones may be able to reduce labour and transportation costs for certain types of movement in specific situations.

There are also challenges in the future development and adoption of drones used in logistics, including:

- (i) the cost of the technology and staffing,
- (ii) safety and regulatory requirements,
- (iii) performance and reliability standards,
- (iv) the ways in which drones can be effectively integrated into existing land-based logistics systems
- (v) how to effectively optimise drone logistics alongside traditional freight modes (drone routing and scheduling)
- (vi) public perception and acceptance,
- (vii) understanding the realistic demand for such services



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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

Drones is the only international open-access journal about the science, policy and technology of drones and its applications. Nowadays, the proliferation of drones is a reality for local policy makers, regulatory bodies, mapping authorities, startups and consolidated companies. There are many uses and benefits of drones: from the emergence of new sensors and the evolution of new platforms; to the development of specific software and the emergence of new applications. *Drones* publishes reviews, regular research papers, communications and short notes, without restriction on the length of papers. *Drones* seeks to provide a central forum for scholars engaged in drones' research and applications.

There is a need for high quality papers in this area and the *Drones* Editorial Board are widely recognized international leaders. *Drones* journal guarantees a serious peer review and a rapid publication across the whole discipline of drones.

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