Special Issue

Drones and the Internet of Things: Enabling Connected Airspace

Message from the Guest Editors

The integration of UAVs (drones) into wireless networks is revolutionizing communication with their mobility, flexible deployment, and growing processing power. UAVs serve as flying base stations, relays, and sensing platforms, enabling next-gen wireless and IoT systems for seamless connectivity and real-time interaction. This Special Issue invites original research and reviews on UAV-enabled wireless communication and IoT, aligned with the journal's focus on networking, systems engineering, and cyber-physical integration. We welcome submissions on topics including:

- Communication architectures and protocols for UAV-IoT systems
- Network modeling, optimization, and integration of UAV connectivity
- Al and autonomy in UAV-enabled IoT
- Security, privacy, and regulation for UAV systems
- Testbeds and experimental validation

Looking forward to your contributions.

Guest Editors

Dr. Riccardo Marini

Dr. Bernabe Matteo

Dr. Enrico Testi

Deadline for manuscript submissions

31 July 2026



Drones

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About the Journal

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.

Editor-in-Chief

Prof. Dr. Diego González-Aguilera

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