Special Issue

Advances in Drone Applications for Last-Mile Delivery Operations

Message from the Guest Editors

The increasing use of drones for logistics is reshaping the way goods are transported and delivered. Among these emerging applications, last-mile delivery represents one of the most promising yet challenging frontiers. Despite significant advances in drone hardware and autonomous flight control, major challenges remain in realizing reliable and scalable last-mile operations. This Special Issue highlights cutting-edge techniques—AI routing, digital-twin logistics, drone-hub automation and zero-emission fleet control—that turn UAV last-mile delivery from demo to daily reality. We seek original research and reviews on scalable, safe and sustainable drone logistics. Focus areas: route/fleet optimization; AI dispatch & real-time control; multi-modal drone-ground networks; AS/RS hubs; disaster & medical missions; energy, battery & payload design; regulation, insurance & environmental impact; real-world pilots.

Guest Editors

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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

Drones is an international open access journal focusing on advancing research in drone science, policy, technology, and applications. Today, drones have become indispensable for policymakers, regulatory authorities, mapping agencies, start-ups, and established firms. Their expanding societal and economic relevance is reflected in the rapid development of new sensors, upgraded platforms, specialized software, and novel applications. The journal provides a central forum for scholars in drone research and applications to exchange findings and innovations. With growing demand for high-quality research, our Editorial Board comprises international leaders and experts across relevant scientific areas. We offer rigorous peer review and rapid publication of papers from across all areas of drone science. We welcome you to submit your next paper to *Drones* and to contribute to the continued advancement of and innovations in the field of drones.

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