

## Special Issue

# Design and Flight Control of Low-Speed Near-Space Unmanned Systems

### Message from the Guest Editors

Near-space is a new type of strategic space, offering significant advantages for diverse applications such as surveillance, communication, and scientific research. As an ideal platform for exploring and exploiting this space, technologies like stratospheric airships, high-altitude solar drones, and high-altitude balloons are rapidly advancing. With the maturation of high-altitude platform technology, the demand for practicality is increasing, and related industries are gradually emerging with huge market space. This Special Issue aims to publish cutting-edge research results on the design and flight control of near-space low-speed aircraft, a rapidly evolving and highly significant area within the broader field of drone technology. It will contribute to the development of innovative UAV technologies and their successful application within the emerging near-space domain.

---

### Guest Editors

Prof. Dr. Ming Zhu

Dr. Xixiang Yang

Dr. Tian Chen

---

### Deadline for manuscript submissions

4 August 2025



## Drones

---

an Open Access Journal  
by MDPI

---

Impact Factor 4.8  
CiteScore 7.4



[mdpi.com/si/227413](https://mdpi.com/si/227413)

*Drones*  
Editorial Office  
MDPI, Grosspeteranlage 5  
4052 Basel, Switzerland  
Tel: +41 61 683 77 34  
[drones@mdpi.com](mailto:drones@mdpi.com)

[mdpi.com/journal/  
drones](https://mdpi.com/journal/drones)





# Drones

---

an Open Access Journal  
by MDPI

---

Impact Factor 4.8  
CiteScore 7.4



[mdpi.com/journal/  
drones](https://mdpi.com/journal/drones)



## 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

Cartographic and Land Engineering Department, Higher Polytechnic School of Avila, University of Salamanca, Hornos Caleros, 50 05003 Avila, Spain

---

### Author Benefits

#### Open Access:

free for readers, with article processing charges (APC) paid by authors or their institutions.

#### High visibility:

indexed within Scopus, SCIE (Web of Science), Inspec, Ei Compendex and other databases.

#### Journal Rank:

JCR - Q1 (Remote Sensing) / CiteScore - Q1 (Aerospace Engineering)