Special Issue

Artificial Intelligence-Driven Drones Systems for Marine Engineering Applications

Message from the Guest Editors

This Special Issue seeks research papers focusing on the application of deep learning, reinforcement learning, and multimodal AI technologies to drone systems in marine engineering and offshore operations. We welcome high-quality original research and review articles, particularly those exploring the integration and innovative application of drone technology and artificial intelligence solutions in complex marine environments. This Special Issue will welcome manuscripts that link the following themes:

- Drone-Based Marine Environmental Perception and Mapping;
- Reinforcement Learning for Autonomous Maritime Navigation and Decision-Making;
- Multimodal Sensor Fusion for Marine Monitoring;
- Vision-Based Detection, Tracking, and Segmentation of Marine Targets;
- Real-Time Scene Understanding and 3D Reconstruction in Marine Environments;
- Air–Sea Drone–Unmanned Surface Vehicle Collaboration;
- Robust Communication and Swarm Coordination in Low-Connectivity Maritime Environments;
- AI-Powered Drone Applications in Maritime Safety, Disaster Response, and Environmental Monitoring;

Guest Editors

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Deadline for manuscript submissions

30 April 2026

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.

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