UAS and SmallSat Weekly News

Contents

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2May20

UK Trials Medical Delivery Drones for COVID-19 Supply Runs Jason Reagan April 30, 2020

Last week, UK transport secretary Grant Shapps gave the green light to launch medical delivery drones to St Mary's Hospital near Newport on the Isle of Wight.

"Earlier this year, we awarded $35 million to Southampton and Portsmouth to develop a Future Transport Zone," Shapps said. "As part of that initiative, $10 million was earmarked for testing drones, and how they might be used for delivering goods in the years and decades ahead. Of course, now we have an urgent need, so we're making use of that testing program as part of our response to COVID-19."

The program will deploy gas-powered, fixed-wing medical delivery drones made by UAV relief group Windracers and the University of Southampton in partnership with Solent Transport.

The drones can carry around 220 pounds for a maximum distance of 621 miles. The flight from Solent Airport to St. Mary's Hospital, Isle of Wight will take about 20 minutes. https://dronelife.com/2020/04/30/medical-delivery-drones-uk/

Commercial Small UAS Fleet to More than Double by 2024

The commercial, small non-model UAS fleet is forecast to grow from 385,450 in 2019 to 828,337 in 2024, according to the new Federal Aviation Administration Aerospace Forecast FY 2020-2040.

The FAA says depending on how quickly regulations evolve for routine uses of commercial UAS, the fleet could grow to as high at 1.2 million or as low as 598,000. The number of remote pilots is also forecast to be more than double in five years, from 162,185 in 2019 to 348,537 in 2024. https://www.faa.gov/data_research/aviation/aerospace_forecasts/media/FY2020-40_FAA_Aerospace_Forecast.pdf

Altitude Angel offers clearer picture of the skies with new API HEADLINE NEWS SOFTWARE TECHNOLOGY SAM LEWIS MAY 1, 2020

The British company claims its new service allows integrators to both share and receive flight data from a variety of sensors and devices in near real-time.

This means that commercial drone manufacturers, flight app developers and drone fleet operators can send aircraft surveillance data or position reports directly to Altitude Angel.

The data is then standardized and correlated with other data sources in its network, meaning everyone using the software has a clearer view of the skies, increasing safety.

The technology is also connected to Altitude Angel's other services, which provide air traffic control-like instructions to drone pilots, helping users avoid collisions.

Richard Parker, Altitude Angel CEO and founder, said: "By offering our surveillance API to developers and manufacturers, we're taking another significant step towards providing a single-point-source-of-truth which is needed to realize routine, automated drone flights.

"By using this API, implementors can benefit from the tremendous 'fusion' capability in the system and will receive enhanced position data back. Data can then be routed into other functions offered by the GuardianUTM cloud platform, including tactical conflict resolution and Airspace Alerts." https://www.commercialdroneprofessional.com/altitude-angel-offers-clearer-picture-of-the-skies-with-new-api/?utm_source=Email+Campaign&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=45819-328839-Commercial+Drone+Professional+DNA+-+2020-05-01

AirBox Technologies Successfully Demonstrates Its AirBox Home Technology in Virginia April 30, 2020 News

The purpose of the demonstration was to highlight secure delivery into a receptacle simulating critical healthcare delivery such as may occur with samples for COVID-19 testing or medication delivery to a patient.

It was carried out on the vacant campus of St. Paul's College in Lawrenceville, VA. The Brunswick County facility, which closed to the public in 2013, provided a safe, complex community environment to demonstrate package deliveries by drones under a variety of conditions. Virginia's Center for Innovative Technology, DroneUp, UPS and Workhorse Group carried out extensive testing during the three-day exercise.

AirBox Technologies used its DroneX heavy lift drone which is capable of carrying 15 pounds 6 miles to carry out the demonstration. It was able to perform multiple deliveries without fail in

Page 3

Robert Rea | Axcel Innovation | Charlottesville and Portsmouth, VA
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spite of wind gusts to 28 knots that day at the college campus.
https://uasweekly.com/2020/04/30/airbox-technologies-successfully-demonstrates-its-airbox-home-technology-in-virginia/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=airbox-technologies-successfully-demonstrates-its-airbox-home-technology-in-virginia&utm_term=2020-05-01

New UAVOS Parachute System for UAS Proved Effective April 30, 2020 News

UAVOS has successfully tested its new two-stage parachute system. The new parachute system design is aimed to provide slow descent of the UAS at high speed. It includes two parachutes – the pilot chute and the main chute used to slow and stabilize the UAS. The decrease in the load speed on the UAS occurs due to the main chute opening delay function when the pilot chute opens first. The parachute system is designed for UAS with speeds of 280 mph and weight of 110 lb.

The pilot chute allows safe, slow descent of the UAV during the main parachute deployment, as well as open up the main chute at a minimum altitude. https://uasweekly.com/2020/04/30/new-uavos-parachute-system-for-uas-proved-effective/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=new-uavos-parachute-system-for-uas-proved-effective&utm_term=2020-05-01

COVID-19 could be a boon for the drone industry Sean Captain May. 1st 2020

In the era of social distancing, drones are emerging as a no-contact solution for many jobs. We've seen many examples recently of new drone delivery services coming online. But these are still tiny pilot programs that don't make much or any money. The bulk of the drone economy is in aerial photography, including surveying and inspecting properties and industrial facilities. Now in the Covid era, there's much more focus on this technology's ability to provide safer, risk-free, contact-free inspection.

In insurance, for instance, drones offer a way to inspect damaged properties remotely. "Many folks have just reached out to us because their workforces are essentially locked down," says Burton. A local drone pilot can go to the site, fly a drone, and collect images that are analyzed by cloud-based AI software, with no need to actually walk the property or climb up on a roof. https://dronedj.com/2020/05/01/covid-19-boon-for-drone-industry/

The US Air Force wants to equip drones with 'brains' Sean Captain May. 1st 2020

 Military drones collect a lot of data from their cameras and other sensors. Right now, they stream back whatever they can, leaving humans and computers back at the base to sort through. Now the US Air Force wants to equip the drones with the brains to analyze the data in real-time.

The Air Force has in mind a very specific system, called a neuromorphic computer, that imitates how an actual brain works. In place of one-and-zero digital calculations, neuromorphic chips emulate the analog nature of the brain with artificial neurons. Like neurons on the brain, they are not simply on or off. Instead, they collect signals that build up to a point at which the neuron fires and sends its signal on.

So the Air Force has partnered with IBM, which builds a neuromorphic computing chip called TrueNorth. IBM has used the chip to build an AI system called Blue Raven that has the equivalent of 64 million neurons and 16 billion synapses. That's about the number of neurons in a small bird's brain. Yet this system consumes just 40 watts of power.

It's only a beginning, though. The Air Force and IBM aim to increase the neuromorphic system's computing power by four orders of magnitude, or 10,000-fold, in the coming four to five years. At that point, you don't just have a drone that collects data. You have a robot that understands what it's seeing and can relay intelligent messages and assessments back to base. https://dronedj.com/2020/05/01/the-us-air-force-equip-drones-with-brains/#more-28042

Drones in the Power and Utilities Sector PRESS 2020-05-01

An analysis by Frost & Sullivan, "Drones in the Global Power and Utilities Industry, Forecast to 2030**,"** reveals that the market for drones in the industry will continue to expand at a compound annual growth rate of **23.6%, reaching $515 million by 2030**. Ongoing digital transformation trends across the sector and an increase in the adoption rates of drones to ensure the **security of power supply** under today's challenging conditions are expected to sustain this growth.

"Drones minimize the need to send human employees onsite and can be deployed for monitoring, operations, and maintenance services," said Swagath Manohar, Senior Research Analyst at Frost & Sullivan. "As the global power and utilities industry continues to tackle the

impact of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, drones can be potential game-changers in combating the challenges it poses." https://www.uavexpertnews.com/2020/05/drones-in-the-power-and-utilities-sector/?utm_source=Master&utm_campaign=0249ba492a-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2017_12_20_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_35ad7bc94d-0249ba492a-89168288

Ascent Vision releases new X-MADIS counter-drone tech COUNTER-DRONE SAM LEWIS APRIL 29, 2020

Ascent Vision Technologies (AVT), based in Bozeman, Montana, has announced the latest version of its eXpeditionary Mobile Air Defense Integrated System (X-MADIS).

X-MADIS, AVT said, offers next-generation portable counter sUAS capabilities, with this newest version incorporating several new hardware components. These additions have improved the system's ruggedness and on-the-move accuracy in rough terrain, as well as its power distribution and setup and deployment time. The system combines radar with a radio frequency detection sensor for the detection, classification and locating of commercial sUAS. Customers also now have a choice of multiple electronic warfare systems to defeat sUAS and drone swarms.

"Our top priority is keeping our customers better protected against the threat, which is why we continually deliver upgrades to the X-MADIS system," said Lee Dingman, AVT president. https://www.commercialdroneprofessional.com/ascent-vision-releases-new-x-madis-counter-drone-tech/?utm_source=Email+Campaign&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=45819-328890-Commercial+Drone+Professional+DNA+-+2020-05-02

4May12

CAA enables drone operators to apply for BVLOS permissions supporting COVID-19 response ALEX DOUGLAS MAY 4, 2020

In a **document** released on the authority's website, the CAA details how it aims to enable UAS operators, supporting the COVID-19 response, to apply for UAS BVLOS authorizations effectively and efficiently.

In response to the move, trade body ARPAS-UK says it is delighted "that the CAA has taken the time to produce guidance to help companies to overcome the challenging regulatory requirements which need to be met in order to enable such a service.

ARPAS-UK believes that drone technology has an important role to play in this crisis, helping to improve distribution, reduce transmission, to help monitor critical infrastructure and ultimately to save lives. If you have any stories or would like assistance from the ARPAS-UK team, please get in touch and we will do our best to support you." Read the CAA's document in-full **HERE**. https://www.commercialdroneprofessional.com/caa-enables-drone-operators-to-apply-for-bvlos-permissions-supporting-covid-19-response/?utm_medium=push&utm_source=notifications

FAA Drone Training Initiative Announced: Providing the Skills the Industry Needs Miriam McNabb May 04, 2020

A new FAA drone training initiative will certify institutions offering UAS programs and provide opportunities for collaboration with the agency. The program is a focused effort to match training with labor force needs, benefitting both the industry and students interested in a career in drones.

"The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) today announced a new Unmanned Aircraft Systems Collegiate Training Initiative (UAS-CTI) that allows educational institutions and the agency to work collaboratively with students who pursue careers in UAS," says an FAA release.

The program will make it easier for students to identify qualified training opportunities – and will make it easier for them to find employment upon completion of their education. Certified institutions will "work with the FAA, other participants, general industry, local governments, law enforcement, and regional economic development entities to address labor force needs," says the announcement.

"Providing our nation's youth with educational opportunities is a major commitment of this administration," said FAA Administrator Stephen M. Dickson. "We see these institutions opening doors for students seeking careers in this exciting, growing field of aviation." https://dronelife.com/2020/05/04/faa-drone-training-initiative-announced/

Aerodyne completes 1,000 hours of drone flight for Malaysian COVID-19 response ALEX DOUGLAS on MAY 4, 2020

At an average speed of 40kmh, the teams have covered over 40,000 kilometres, equivalent to flying around the earth's circumference.

The Malaysian MCO in place now for over 48 days requires the closure of non-essential private and public organizations with limited

travel to purchase food and essential medical supplies within a 10 kilometer radius. As a result of strict enforcement, Malaysia has been able to flatten the infection curve and will be easing some restrictions starting 4 May 2020.

Aerodyne's 23 teams of two Aerorangers each volunteered for the project while the company committed over $600,000 worth of drone equipment and provided $350,000 worth of services.

A dedicated, secure GIS-based data sharing and analytics platform – vertikalitiOps – was used to provide realtime video streaming and analytics. The system also overlaid Covid-19 infection locational data to further enhance situational awareness of the spread and drone operation areas. https://www.commercialdroneprofessional.com/aerodyne-completes-1000-hours-of-drone-flight-for-malaysian-covid-19-emergency-response/?utm_source=Email+Campaign&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=45819-328953-Commercial+Drone+Professional+DNA+-+2020-05-04

Parrot supports Human Rights Watch with drones and software provision
EMERGENCY SERVICES HEALTH INTERNATIONAL NEWS SURVEILLANCE ALEX DOUGLAS MAY 4, 2020

As part of a Human Rights Watch investigation into ISIS atrocities in northern Syria, Parrot provided support in capturing aerial imagery and 3D data of the al-Hota gorge near Raqqa, a suspected mass grave site used by ISIS.

The dangerous terrain and steep cliffs of al-Hota made it necessary for Human Rights Watch investigators to use drones to capture imagery at the bottom of the gorge. Data captured by the drones was also used to create a 3D topographical model of the al-Hota gorge with the software Pix4D Mapper. These 3D maps may be used to further investigate below the surface of the water. https://www.commercialdroneprofessional.com/parrot-supports-human-rights-watch-with-drones-and-software-provision/?utm_source=Email+Campaign&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=45819-328953-Commercial+Drone+Professional+DNA+-+2020-05-04

Kespry crush the competition with McMurry Ready Mix partnership APPLICATION
MINING AND AGGREGATES SAM LEWIS MAY 4, 2020

Drone-based aerial intelligence provider Kespry, working in California, has announced a successful partnership with aggregates and ready-mix producers and crushing operator McMurry Ready Mix**.**

The Wyoming-based McMurry has facilities across the state and boasts a large fleet of construction equipment and trucks.

Kespry enhances McMurry's mine mapping and inventory management with its drone-based aerial intelligence platform. In 2019 McMurry completed successful 270 flights with Kespry.

"We needed Kespry because of its ability to help us control inventory and ensure it was accurate, so we could manage costs," said Rob Jongsma, general manager, McMurry Ready Mix. "It's really important to keep those inventory numbers accurate for sales forecasts and management. We use Kespry a lot. And the great thing is, whether we use it 30 or 300 times in a year, the cost to us doesn't change. I personally haven't found anything better than working with Kespry to manage the volume of inventory we do. The convenience and accuracy really help us." https://www.commercialdroneprofessional.com/kespry-crush-the-competition-with-mcmurry-ready-mix-partnership/?utm_source=Email+Campaign&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=45819-328953-Commercial+Drone+Professional+DNA+-+2020-05-04

USAF Agility Prime program to accelerate advanced air mobility uptake April 28, 2020 Philip Butterworth-Hayes Urban air mobility

On 27 April, the US Air Force kicked off its Agility Prime program which seeks to rapidly transform the US military and civil advanced air mobility industry by jointly forming research development programs with civil manufacturers of passenger-carrying electric VTOL programs. One of the main drivers is to ensure US industry does not cede the technology and industry high ground in this strategic sector to manufacturers from abroad – in the way the small UAS sector has been dominated by Chinese manufacturers.

According to the USAF website: "Agility Prime is a non-traditional program seeking to accelerate the commercial market for advanced air mobility vehicles. It also aims to bring together industry, investor, and government communities to establish safety and security standards while accelerating commercialization of this revolutionary technology."

In the near term, the program comprises "a rapid contracting mechanism beginning in 2020 with a "Race to Certification" series to drive government procurement". It wants to acquire

Page 9

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fleets of "orbs", eVTOLs capable of handling a number of military missions, including distributed logistics and sustainment, medical evacuation, firefighting, civil and military disaster relief, search and rescue, and humanitarian relief operations." The initial generation of orbs is for vehicles able to carry three to eight people at more than 100 mph, flying more than 100 miles, with an endurance of more than one hour. The service is planning the first full-scale flights by December 17, with the goal of a small, operational fleet by 2023.
https://www.unmannedairspace.info/urban-air-mobility/usaf-agility-prime-programme-to-accelerate-advanced-air-mobility-uptake/

Rwanda further expands drone deliveries to fight COVID-19 Sean Captain May. 4th 2020

Since 2016, Rwanda has been leading the world in using drones to serve its people. Now that work continues with a new program delivering chemotherapy meds in the era of COVID-19 social distancing.

The coronavirus lockdown has made it harder for people to travel to receive life-saving medications. So Rwanda is bringing in the drones. Last month the Butaro Cancer Hospital, which specializes in oral chemotherapy treatment, received its first shipment of the medications by drone.

"Restrictions on public transport and a nationwide lockdown to prevent the spread of coronavirus are the main reasons for expansion of delivery of drugs using drones," officials from the Rwanda Biomedical Center told The East African.
https://dronedj.com/2020/05/04/rwanda-expand-drone-deliveries-covid-19/#more-28100

Volansi Announces the Launch of The Long Range Voly M20 UAS May 2, 2020 News

Today Volansi, Inc. announced the launch of their newest unmanned aerial vehicle, the VOLY M20 at the United States Air Force's Agility Prime Virtual Trade Show.

The VOLY M20 is a new generation of dual role aircraft offering customers the ability to simultaneously carry 20 pounds of cargo and a 10 pound ISR or sensor payload. It was designed to meet the exacting requirements of commercial customers operating in remote maritime locations and military customers who require a flexible vehicle

for resupply and ISR applications. It has a 350-mile range, cruising at 75 mph, and more than eight hours of endurance for sensor operations.

Made in the USA, it utilizes a hybrid flight system that combines electric vertical takeoff and landing with a fixed-wing, "pusher"-driven forward flight mode. It can be configured with the customer's choice of heavy-fuel (JP5/JP8/Kerosene) or gasoline engines.

The VTOL design enables the VOLY M20 to complete complex missions with minimal to zero infrastructure needs. Because the M20 lands at the delivery point, it can return with cargo such as samples for analysis, diagnosis, or repair. https://uasweekly.com/2020/05/02/volansi-announces-the-launch-of-the-long-range-voly-m20-uas/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=volansi-announces-the-launch-of-the-long-range-voly-m20-uas&utm_term=2020-05-04

5May20

Boeing rolls out Australia's first 'Loyal Wingman' combat drone Valerie Insinna May 4, 2020

 WASHINGTON — Boeing is set to roll out the first "Loyal Wingman" drone for the Royal Australian Air Force during a Tuesday morning ceremony, putting the RAAF high on the list of countries experimenting with autonomous aircraft.

The RAAF plans to buy three drones, which Boeing calls the Airpower Teaming System, as part of the Loyal Wingman Advanced Development Program. Over a series of flight tests and demonstrations, the RAAF hopes to figure out how to best integrate drones with fighter jets and other combat aircraft, allowing the air force to keep pilots safe by putting lower cost unmanned assets at risk during a fight.

The ATS is semi-autonomous, meaning that fighter pilots will not have to remotely control the maneuvers of the drone, said Shane Arnott, Boeing's ATS program director. "When you are teaming, say with a Super Hornet, they don't have the luxury during combat maneuvers or operations to be remotely piloting another aircraft while doing their own."

But one of the biggest technical questions still remains: How much data should be transferred from the ATS to the cockpit of the manned aircraft controlling it, and when does that turn into information overload? That question is one Boeing wants to answer more definitively once ATS

makes its first flight later this year and moves into its experimentation phase.
https://www.defensenews.com/air/2020/05/04/boeing-rolls-out-australias-first-loyal-wingman-combat-drone/

Drone Medicine Delivery Trial Takes Place in Ireland Jess Brown May 5, 2020

In Ireland, a drone company that recently had to disregard its fast-food delivery tests has partnered with the health authority to deliver prescription instead. Manna Aero is currently working with the Health Service Executive to deliver medicines and various other essential supplies to vulnerable people within the small town of Moneygall.

The trial uses autonomous drones made in Wales and is looking at the possibility of testing in the UK within weeks. The UK has already announced a test of drones to carry supplies to the Isle of Wight during the pandemic on a fixed flightpath. Manna Aero says that they are the first to provide flights going straight to homes.

Local doctors are writing prescriptions after a video consultation with their patient which the drone then drops off at their homes. The drone can also deliver essential supplies – such as milk or bread – to those who are not supposed to go outside. It can carry up to 9lb in its cargo cassette, which is about the size of a large shoebox. Manna Aero says it is equipped to handle up to 100 deliveries a day. Although the drones are completely autonomous, a pilot is present at all times to intervene. https://www.coverdrone.com/drone-medicine-delivery-trial-takes-place-in-ireland/?utm_source=Coverdrone+email+subscribers&utm_campaign=68775cf160-Coverdrone+Email+Campaign+05.05.20&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_3033eb7817-68775cf160-113470153

Percepto lauded for accelerating decision making with autonomous drone solution APPLICATION INTERNATIONAL NEWS ALEX DOUGLAS MAY 5, 2020

Comprising the Sparrow drone, Percepto Base, and comprehensive data management and analytics software, the Percepto Solution performs a range of tasks such as inspections, measurements and surveillance. Its proprietary advanced analytics, Artificial Intelligence, computer vision and machine learning give it a significant competitive edge over other solutions.

Michael Blades, VP of aerospace, defense and security, said: "Operators can remotely start, monitor, and complete tasks through the cloud-based, user-intuitive dashboard, allowing them to continue their business operations from anywhere in the world. It notifies operators in real time, enabling operations and security teams to respond to incidents proactively, ultimately optimizing productivity, safety and security. Further, it monitors a client's worksite for any external interference such as a malicious or unauthorized individual, drone, or vehicle; safety risks such as leaking pipes, or improper safety practices such as an employee not wearing a hard hat or high-visibility safety vest."

Each year, Frost & Sullivan presents this award to a company that has developed a pioneering technology that not only enhances current products but also enables the development of new products and applications. https://www.commercialdroneprofessional.com/percepto-lauded-for-accelerating-decision-making-with-autonomous-drone-solution/?utm_source=Email+Campaign&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=45819-329010-Commercial+Drone+Professional+DNA+-+2020-05-05

Drone Surveys Rail Tracks in Automated Shipping Yard 04 May 2020 Mike Ball

Phase One Industrial has released a case study outlining how the company's iXM-100 medium format camera has been integrated into a UAV-based aerial imaging platform used to survey many kilometers of rail tracks at an automated shipping yard in Germany.

Automated storage cranes at Hamburger Hafen und Logistik AG's shipment yard require an annual survey of over 30km of rail per terminal, in order to measure any changes in the systems' rail tracks due to changes in geomorphological conditions of subsoil as well as to outline any required repairs. Researchers from the AeroInspekt project at the Technical University of Braunschweig have assembled a system based on the DJI M600 Pro drone.

By flying the aerial camera at low altitudes of only 35 m, surveying with a resolution of 1mm could be achieved. During the project, the workflows for processing and interpretation of the large data sets were developed, optimized and evaluated by the team on the ground. Using a drone-based surveying system meant that operations at the shipping yard did not have to be disrupted while work was carried out. https://www.unmannedsystemstechnology.com/2020/05/drone-aerial-inspection-of-automated-shipping-yards/?utm_source=UST+eBrief&utm_campaign=3a9e50003f-eBrief_2020_05May&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_6fc3c01e8d-3a9e50003f-119747501

Drones try to smuggle over $300K in drugs across US border Sean Captain May. 5th 2020

Most drones can't carry a lot of weight. But it doesn't take much cargo to make money when your product is worth $12,750 per pound. That's the price a load of cocaine flown into the US from Mexico could have fetched, if Border Patrol agents hadn't foiled the operation.

The bust took place in Yuma, AZ, near the Mexico border, reports the Tucson Sentinel. Over the weekend, a drone entered US airspace from Mexico and dropped ten packages of cocaine on the US side. All told, they added up to 24 pounds, or about $306,000 street value. Agents already knew to keep an eye out. A few days earlier, another drone had flown across the border with one pound of methamphetamine, worth around $3,000. But police don't appear to have nabbed any suspects. It seems that whoever was meant to pick up those packages thought better of it when they saw the Border Patrol out and about.

The Yuma area is a busy region for cross-border drug smuggling. That's made the area a priority for the border wall program. The administration has installed new lights, sensors and metal wall panels to close up gaps along the area's deserts and canals to stop the flow of people and goods. But you can only make a wall so high, and drones can always fly higher. https://dronedj.com/2020/05/05/drones-try-to-smuggle-over-300k-in-drugs-across-us-border/

Rich Brian uses a drone to deliver gifts in his latest video Josh Spires May. 5th 2020

Indonesian artist Rich Brian has utilized a drone in his latest music video to deliver fun gifts to his friends. He also helped out people in the community who are struggling in the current circumstances with a little extra cash.

The latest music video was a little more high tech than normal, featuring a DJI Phantom 4 drone and a drop mechanism allowing Brian to drop off the gifts. The video first shows Rich Brian sending care packages to a few of his friends for a bit of fun during the COVID-19 lockdown. The various artists featured in the video—including Guapdad 4000, Cuco, NIKI, Cody Ko, Noel Miller, Buddy, Thundercat, Denzel Curry, Kenny Beats, and Lil Yachty—all donated money. Recipients included the LA County Hospital, Asian Americans for Housing, and Shelter Partnership.

Rich also donated money to Love Catering, which was able to provide an additional 125 meals to hospital and healthcare workers on the frontline. Check out the full video below to see all the work that was done to help as many people as possible. https://dronedj.com/2020/05/05/rich-brian-drone-deliver-gifts-video/

Sabrewing Cargo Drone Rises to US Air Force Challenge May 5, 2020 News

 Named after an Old English word for a type of dragon, the Rhaegal-A won't be making its mark by burning the countryside. Instead, the electric cargo drone is in the spotlight during a U.S. Air Force conference about "flying car" technologies. The drone's planned Friday rollout marks a new step for Sabrewing, a startup based in Camarillo, Calif., after it became the first recipient of a contract awarded through the Air Force's Agility Prime program.

"Typically a battlefield is maybe 50 nautical miles away, and we're able to make it there in 15 minutes as opposed to 30 minutes in a standard helicopter," says Ed De Reyes, the chief executive of Sabrewing. "So we could, in theory, have all the casualties back within that golden hour and potentially save a lot of lives."

Some U.S. military helicopters and aircraft used in medical evacuations can fly at speeds comparable to the Sabrewing drone's 230-mile-per-hour top speed. But the drone's advantage could come from a potentially lower price tag and the capability to perform more dangerous medical evacuations under enemy fire without exposing crewed helicopters or aircraft.

It relies on four ducted fans powered by electric motors that receive electricity from a turbine. That enables it to carry 2,700 pounds when performing vertical takeoff and landing like a helicopter and 5,000 pounds when taking off and landing from a runway. https://uasweekly.com/2020/05/05/sabrewing-cargo-drone-rises-to-us-air-force-challenge/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=sabrewing-cargo-drone-rises-to-us-air-force-challenge&utm_term=2020-05-05

6May20

EagleHawk Deploys Disinfectant Drones to Sanitize Facilities Jason Reagan May 05, 2020

Using EPA-approved chemicals, the disinfectant drones can spray over large facilities such as stadiums and ballparks, or indoor buildings such as jails and government offices. Company

officials hope customers will see the value in using a single drone flight to disinfect an area rather than having to spend more time and money hiring several human cleaners.
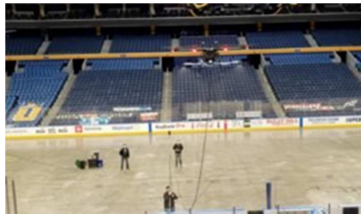
"While EagleHawk has engineered an effective drone solution to help disinfect large-scale facilities, we also caution companies to be weary of providers who are offering a service using off-the-shelf spraying drones, which were designed for agricultural use and are not suitable for disinfection purposes," said EagleHawk CEO Patrick Walsh.

"Providing these services properly requires a custom-tailored delivery system and expert drone pilots. EagleHawk has spent months researching, designing, and testing our solutions to ensure we're offering a safe and effective service for our clients and are working closely with regulatory agencies to ensure all safety standards and protocols are followed." The company recently performed a test run at KeyBank Center, a sports arena in Buffalo.

In addition to offering the new service with disinfectant drones, EagleHawk offers an array of UAV-based inspections to include GIS, thermal imagery and roof inspection. https://dronelife.com/2020/05/05/disinfectant-drones-eaglehawk/

Wingcopter wins in emergency delivery category at World Bank drone challenge
INTERNATIONAL NEWS SAM LEWIS MAY 6, 2020

The decision means a £65,000 prize for Wingcopter, who also won an award for its safety measures.

The flying competition was part of the 2020 African Drone Forum which took place in Rwanda in February, a first of its kind on the continent, and was hosted by the Rwandan Government. The forum aimed at showcasing the advances in autonomous drone delivery that can make a significant difference for isolated communities and rural areas across Africa.

Meanwhile, the challenge received 92 applications from 35 countries, but only the top ten drone companies were invited to put their drones and operators through real-life scenarios at Lake Kivu in Western Rwanda.

"We are very proud to be winners of the Lake Kivu Challenge," commented Tom Plümmer, CEO and co-founder of Wingcopter, "as this challenge and the African Drone Forum embody the

innovative spirit of humanitarian aid and the African drone community as well as the great potential for sustainable drone deployments."
https://www.commercialdroneprofessional.com/wingcopter-wins-in-emergency-delivery-category-at-world-bank-drone-challenge/?utm_source=Email+Campaign&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=45819-329052-Commercial+Drone+Professional+DNA+-+2020-05-06

UK leads the way in drone deliveries NEWS UK SAM LEWIS MAY 6, 2020

Protolabs' 'Horizon Shift' report involved 325 aerospace business leaders from across Europe and notes an increased interest in 'low space' innovation as well as more investment into the fast-track testing of robots and drones.

"Covid-19 has brought huge disruption to the global economy, with the aerospace sector being among the hardest hit," explained Bjoern Klaas, vice president and managing director of Protolabs Europe. "In fact the UKSA, the government agency responsible for the UK's civil space program, just announced a new drive to fund technology to strengthen the NHS response to coronavirus. Drone technology can help meet challenges, such as delivering test kits, masks, gowns and goggles, in the management of infectious disease outbreaks."

He continued: "Commercial drone deliveries are the most likely disruptor and this was reinforced across the duration of our study, which was carried out as the COVID-19 pandemic started to take grip. In just a few weeks, the appetite for this technology increased by 11% to 53%. Depending on legislation and advances in technology, it's feasible that last mile delivery of products, through drones, could reach up to 30% of citizens across Europe. Furthermore, nearly a third of people feel that urban mobility will be a viable mode of transport in the next three years." https://www.commercialdroneprofessional.com/uk-leads-the-way-in-drone-deliveries/?utm_source=Email+Campaign&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=45819-329052-Commercial+Drone+Professional+DNA+-+2020-05-06

7May20

US Department of Transportation announces drone Remote ID partners May 6, 2020 Tracy Cozzens

The FAA today announced the eight companies that will assist the federal government in establishing requirements for future suppliers of Remote

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Page 17

Identification (Remote ID). Remote ID will enable unmanned aircraft systems to provide identification and location information while operating in the nation's airspace.

The FAA selected the following companies to develop technology requirements for future Remote ID UAS Service Suppliers: Airbus, AirMap, Amazon, Intel, One Sky, Skyward, T-Mobile and Wing.

"The FAA will be able to advance the safe integration of drones into our nation's airspace from these technology companies' knowledge and expertise on remote identification," said U.S. Transportation Secretary Elaine L. Chao. This initial group will support the FAA in developing technology requirements for other companies to develop applications needed for Remote ID. The applications will provide drone identification and location information to safety and security authorities while in flight. https://www.gpsworld.com/us-department-of-transportation-announces-drone-remote-id-partners/

Drones tested for emergency medical deliveries MAY 6, 2020 SYDNEY LAKE

After being approached by the state government, the Herndon-based Center for Innovative Technology partnered with Virginia Beach-based DroneUp to test how drones can assist medical professionals in delivering test samples and personal protective equipment in no-contact, emergency situations.

Although DroneUp's equipment is typically used for data collection and other flight services, CIT and DroneUp began testing in early April how the companies' combined technology could adapt to emergency situations. The tests were conducted in partnership with UPS's drone delivery subsidiary, UPS Flight Forward, and Ohio-based drone company Workhorse Group Inc.

"I am encouraged to see so many private sector partners stepping up and thinking innovatively as we work together to combat COVID-19," Gov. Ralph Northam said in a statement. "Drones can be an important way to deliver medical supplies while people stay home to adhere to our social distancing guidelines."

In October 2019, UPS Flight Forward was the first drone airline to receive Part 135 certification from the Federal Aviation Administration , and it's working to expand drone delivery service among hospitals, campuses, residences and commercial properties. "We've proven through ongoing commercial drone delivery programs that drone delivery of medical products is faster than conventional ground-based transportation," Scott Price, UPS chief strategy and

transformation officer, said in a statement. "Drones offer a low-touch option for delivery of lab specimens and medical products that could make a significant impact in an urgent response application." https://www.virginiabusiness.com/article/drones-tested-for-emergency-medical-deliveries/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=daily

8May20

How one U.S. university continues cubesat work during the pandemic AMANDA MILLE|MAY 5, 2020

 BOULDER, Colo. — Palo, an aerospace and engineering sciences professor at CU and chair of AIAA's Small Satellite Technical Committee, has hooked up a battery power supply, soldering tools and an oscilloscope in his basement — all liberated from his lab. The idea was to "have the tools of testing" ready to continue trying out cubesat components and software either at home or by connecting to the lab remotely.

Anticipating the closure, a student team worked in the lab for three days to set up a flatsat, or simulated, version of their upcoming U.S. Air Force-funded MAXWELL cubesat, short for Multiple Access X-band Wave Experiment Located in LEO. From their homes, Palo and his students access, via the internet, this networked array of electronics that are just like the ones planned for MAXWELL, which is now in the testing phase. This way, they can continue to upload software for testing. One of 18 small satellites selected by NASA to be deployed as secondary rocket payloads from 2021 to 2023, MAXWELL will demonstrate a radio design for smallsats.

The Air Force's University Nanosatellite Program 9 is helping pay for development. The spacecraft will be large by cubesat standards at 6 units long, the volume of six 10-centimeter cubes joined together. https://aerospaceamerica.aiaa.org/how-one-u-s-university-continues-cubesat-work-during-the-pandemic/

French Judge Refuses to Ban Drones in Paris for Monitoring Social Distancing
Harry McNabb May 07, 2020
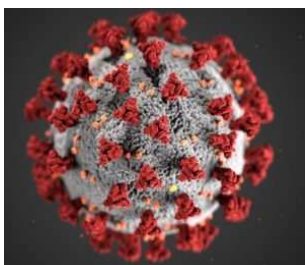
 During the current Covid-19 pandemic, surveillance drones have been used by police departments around the world to monitor community quarantines.   In the U.S., some politicians have objected, with fearmongering claims that drones are "spying" or "lecturing" people.

In France at least, the outcome of the argument is clear: a French judge refused to ban surveillance drones in Paris. The decision denied claims that the drones collect personal data and concludes that their use is justified in the current crisis.

Surveillance drones have been used by Paris police since March 18, 2020. The French League of Human Rights and the Quadrature du Net filed a lawsuit against the use of the drones, claiming that images collected violate privacy regulations. French privacy laws strictly regulate the use of surveillance cameras, but there is no specific legislation that covers aerial imagery captured by drone. Drone laws prohibit flights in Paris without authority, but there is an exception for law enforcement agencies.

The French Interior Ministry says that there are currently over 400 drones in use by law enforcement in the country. Surveillance drones have been adopted around the world during coronavirus, in countries including the U.S., China, Italy, Spain, and the U.K.   https://dronelife.com/2020/05/07/surveillance-drones-french-judge-refuses-to-ban-drones-in-paris-monitoring-social-distancing/