



The construction industry has embraced the use of drone technology to make their processes quicker and easier. Here are five helpful tips to consider when picking the right drone for the right project, as the team from Microdrones explains.



Picking the right drone

Compared to the majority of construction equipment which makes up a job site, such as dozers, excavators, dump trucks and wheeled loaders, drones are tiny; but they're making themselves known on the modern construction site, and maximising user value. A strong case can be made to say that drones have quickly become a flying superhero of the jobsite; before, during and after a project.

From initial planning all the way through to final inspection, drones provide a safer way to collect geospatial data and imagery when compared to conventional methods that might be dirty, dull or even downright dangerous.

The Microdrones mdMapper1000DG system has been getting some very healthy press as of late, by proving its might to both planning and construction pros alike.

If using drones for this type of work inspires you to make drones a part of your workflow, then the question becomes, 'How do I choose the right drone mapping package?'

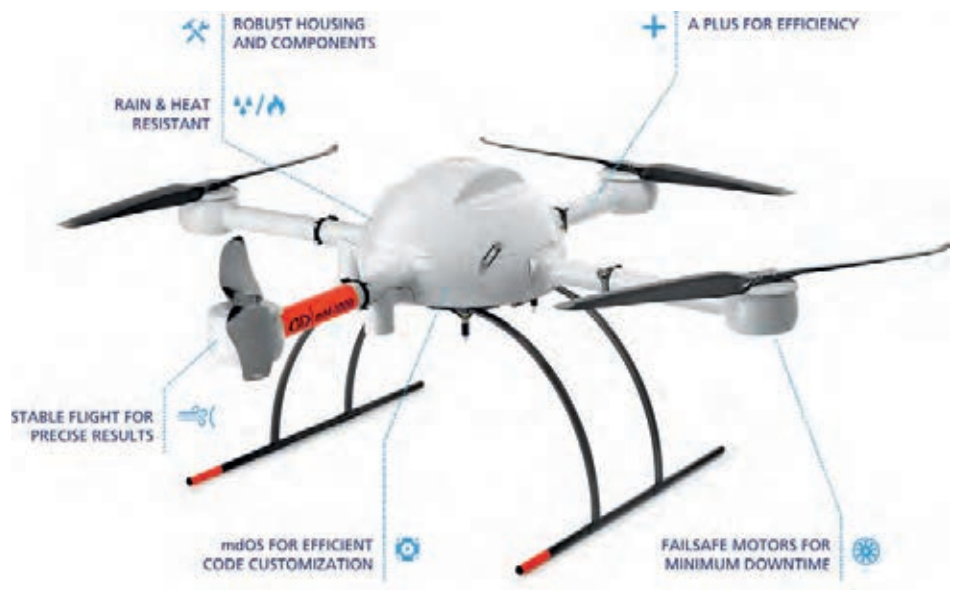
There are many things to consider when purchasing a drone mapping package for construction purposes. Here we provide an outline of five key considerations that all those involved in working on a construction site must consider before making that all-important purchase.

Key considerations

1. ENGINEERING QUALITY

Construction is tough on technology. The average building site is host to large temperature fluctuations, windy conditions, sand clouds, debris, and many other environmental challenges. That's why choosing a quality product with professional engineering standards is not just important – it is absolutely essential.

Look for drones that have long flight times and manufacturers that will demo their product for you



Key benefits of the Microdrones UAV platform make it a strong choice for the rigors of daily field use





A Microdrones mdMapper1000DG system, on the job outside of Atlanta, Georgia in the US

for your job

2. DATA ACCURACY

Not all data mapping technology is created equal. Look for unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) solutions that have a track record of successful mapping and that have been designed and integrated for professional applications. A mapping drone package is a serious business tool, and should be purpose built for work.

3. VEHICLE DESIGN

Quadcopters are best suited for construction professionals. Microdrones systems use a four-rotor design for maximum stability and the big, low RPM motors provide plenty of power while making efficient use of battery power – absolutely essential if the drone will need to be in the air for a long period of time.

4. COST

Regardless of your business, there is a well-worn saying from Benjamin Franklin: “The bitterness of poor quality remains long after the sweetness of low price is forgotten.”

Many UAS novices try to get started with an ill-suited drone platform or mapping package



that was derived from recreational, hobbyist or ‘prosumer’ platforms. When using a drone for serious work, you need a serious solution that was purpose built to deliver a specific geospatial result. It really isn’t worth trying to take a short-cut with this.

5. FLIGHT TIME

There is a good argument to be made that this is the most important, and the most overlooked criteria of all. Right now, all drones eventually need to land for a re-charge, and you want a system that keeps track of where it left off. This makes the flight time metric extremely important because it is a direct reflection of the usability of the device.

Construction sites are often big and UAV mapping, inspection, and aerial photography takes time. Flight time can also be affected by temperature, wind, and payload among a host of other issues.

Look for drones that have long flight times and manufacturers that will demo their product for you. Many manufacturers give ‘best case’ times that often differ vastly from actual results in the field.

Conclusion

Drones are the future of the construction industry. Whether you are surveying land, monitoring a job site, or inspecting a new structure, having a reliable drone on hand makes the task quicker and safer. Microdrones is a commercial UAV leader with a detailed mapping system, the ability for long flight times and interchangeable payloads. We pioneered the commercial quadcopter and work with clients in the construction industry around the globe.

■ To find out more about Microdrones and to talk to one of their experts visit: www.microdrones.com

microdrones®

4 Ways a UAV Can Save Your Construction Business Money

- UAVs make land surveying faster.
- Data can be processed and visualized quickly.
- Reduce accidents and delays.
- Monitor multiple projects remotely.



mdLiDAR 1000

Point Cloud Visualization



mdMAPPER 1000DG

Photogrammetry



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