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Applications of UAVs in Civil Infrastructure

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Message from the Guest Editors

Drones have proven to have significant potential in supporting the condition assessment of civil infrastructure and contribute to more efficient maintenance procedures. Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) can function as flexible platforms for carrying high-quality digital data acquisition equipment such as image sensors of different spectral ranges, laser, lidar scanners and GPR as well as further surveying and non-destructive testing devices. They can be operated semi or fully autonomously and thus perform extensive data generation operations near large structures very efficiently. The processing of acquired sensor data can support digital modeling of existing structures, provide deep insight into the structure's condition and through repeated and systematic flights pave the way to modern data-driven and predictive maintenance strategies. Furthermore, drones can be applied in the context of infrastructure planning for early site investigations or construction progress monitoring. Drones have proven to be very efficient in the management of seismic events and for the safe survey of damaged buildings in order to plan the recovery or restoration of damaged historical buildings.

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Editor-in-Chief

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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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