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HOW FLIGHT MANAGEMENT SOFTWARE WILL IMPACT THE COMMERCIAL DRONE INDUSTRY

By Ran Kleiner

The use of drones is rapidly growing all around the world. As prices decrease and capabilities are improved almost monthly, more and more people are discovering the advantages of having their own, private eye-in-the sky.

Real estate agents, civil engineers, advertising companies, event producers, filmmakers, news producers, local authorities, fire departments, police departments, rescue teams, farmers and many others are already using drones in their day-to-day activities, mostly as flying cameras, but not only that; new drone technologies are now being developed to safely and efficiently carry a physical object from place to place, a capability that promises to virtually change our everyday life.

While drone applications are multiplying, regulators struggle in providing a suitable regulatory response to the complex issues that arise with the new technology; issues such as flight safety, privacy, radio frequency control, criminal threats, homeland security, are all big concerns and are being addressed by governments around the world.

The most significant topics aviation authorities tackle are, who is authorized to operate a drone? Which drones? Where can they fly them? For what purpose?

Nowadays, most drone operators are private citizens who use drones for recreational or sport activities, at the same time professional drone use and the number of operators/pilots is steadily increasing. Professional drone operators are defined as commercial or institutional operators (including Law Enforcement).

Professional drone operators are required by civil aviation authorities to log their flight activities and document its information. For example, managing a personal pilot logbook, managing a logbook for each specific drone, tracking the frequency of maintenance checks, and preparing a flight brief for each flight, etc., are required best practices for manned aircrafts that have now been carried over to Drones. The purpose of these regulations are mainly designed to increase flight safety.

Flight management and data collection is advantageous for drone operations far beyond the above mentioned safety reasons. Operators that have planned and logged their flights can get a better perspective of their operations, record flight hours missions per task, record maintenance and maintenance cost per flight hour, enhance proficiency and flight categories etc.

Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) is a web based application which gives users real-time access to significant business activities and information. **SkyMaster,** a drone flight management software, is a cloud-based ERP system tailored specifically for the needs and requirements of professional drone operators. As drone-based services continue to emerge, cloud-based services are already mature; the planning, management and storage of all drone activities can be done in real-time, from any desktop, laptop or mobile device. For drone operators, this means that they are always up-to-date and available for work. It also means that the burden of managing a complex flight operation is significantly reduced while performance increases.

Bottom line: flight management software is an up-to-date solution that will give a real boost to any new or existing commercial drone operator.

To learn more about this new kind of drone ERP software, go to skytech.systems/skymaster.

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