

### **Development of unmanned aerial vehicles**

The development of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) is marked by significant progress in many areas, from commercial air transport to military applications, from agriculture to scientific research. Such technologies are becoming increasingly important to ensure the safety, efficiency and sustainability of aviation operations. They refuse to complicate the mission in hard-to-reach or dangerous environments, provide opportunities for automation and optimization of processes, and also open new perspectives for the use of dedicated data in various industries, which contribute to the development of new products and services, as well as innovation in the entire aviation sector.

The first concepts of unmanned aerial vehicles were developed back in 1916 by the German engineer and inventor Adrian Flegt. He created an automatic aircraft that could fly at a certain height and carry out missions without human control. His plane can be considered a prototype of an unmanned aerial vehicle, as it could fly at a certain altitude and perform missions without direct control by a human on board. However, the idea of unmanned aerial vehicles did not develop significantly until the end of the First World War, when there was a need for tools to conduct reconnaissance missions over enemy territory without the risk of loss of human life. At this time, the first attempts to create unmanned vehicles appeared, although most of them were ineffective due to limited technology and the lack of advanced control systems. And only in the further development of aviation technology, especially during the Second World War, the idea of unmanned aerial vehicles began to receive more attention and development from the military and scientific institutions.

The future use of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) promises to revolutionize various spheres of life.

Already, the use of unmanned aerial vehicles in agriculture allows optimizing the processes of watering, fertilizing and harvesting, as well as monitoring the condition of crops and the spread of diseases.

In the field of transport and delivery, UAVs can be used for fast and efficient delivery of goods, which will become especially important in urban areas and in emergency situations when traditional means of transport are not available. For example, Amazon and Google are developing delivery apps that can efficiently deliver goods to remote areas or conditions where traditional transportation is limited.

Also, UAVs can be used to monitor forest fires, environmental pollution, climate research and other natural phenomena, which will allow prompt response to negative consequences. UAVs can be used to explore inaccessible or dangerous places, such as areas of fever or natural disasters, they can help in the creation of detailed maps, as well as in the calculation and analysis of geographic data.

In areas such as patrolling and security, unmanned aerial vehicles can be used to provide security at sea, within borders or even in urban areas where they can detect crime and provide support to law enforcement.

The most interesting and exciting application of unmanned aerial vehicles is research missions in space. It is interesting that with the help of unmanned aerial vehicles in space, humanity gets the opportunity to study outer space and expand scientific knowledge about the universe. So, for example, NASA uses an unmanned aerial vehicle such as Ingenuity, to explore the surface of Mars and collect scientific data. Also, satellites with built-in UAVs can

perform surveillance and data collection functions in space. They can be used to monitor weather, climate, oceans, forests and other natural resources. Unmanned spacecraft can be used to test new technologies and concepts that can then be implemented in manned missions. They can help improve automation, navigation and control systems.

UAVs have proven themselves as a specific military unit. Drones are technological tools that have significantly changed the way of waging war in Ukraine. The use of drones in hostilities in the east of the country has a significant impact on both the strategic and tactical levels.

First of all, drones have become an integral part of the intelligence system. They provide the ability to detect the movement of enemy troops, artillery positions and infrastructure, which allows Ukrainian forces to be more informed and effectively manage operations. In addition, drones allow accurate reconnaissance over considerable distances, which makes them indispensable for detecting the enemy in various conditions.

These directions are just the beginning, with the development of technology, even more opportunities for the use of unmanned aerial vehicles in various spheres of life may appear.

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